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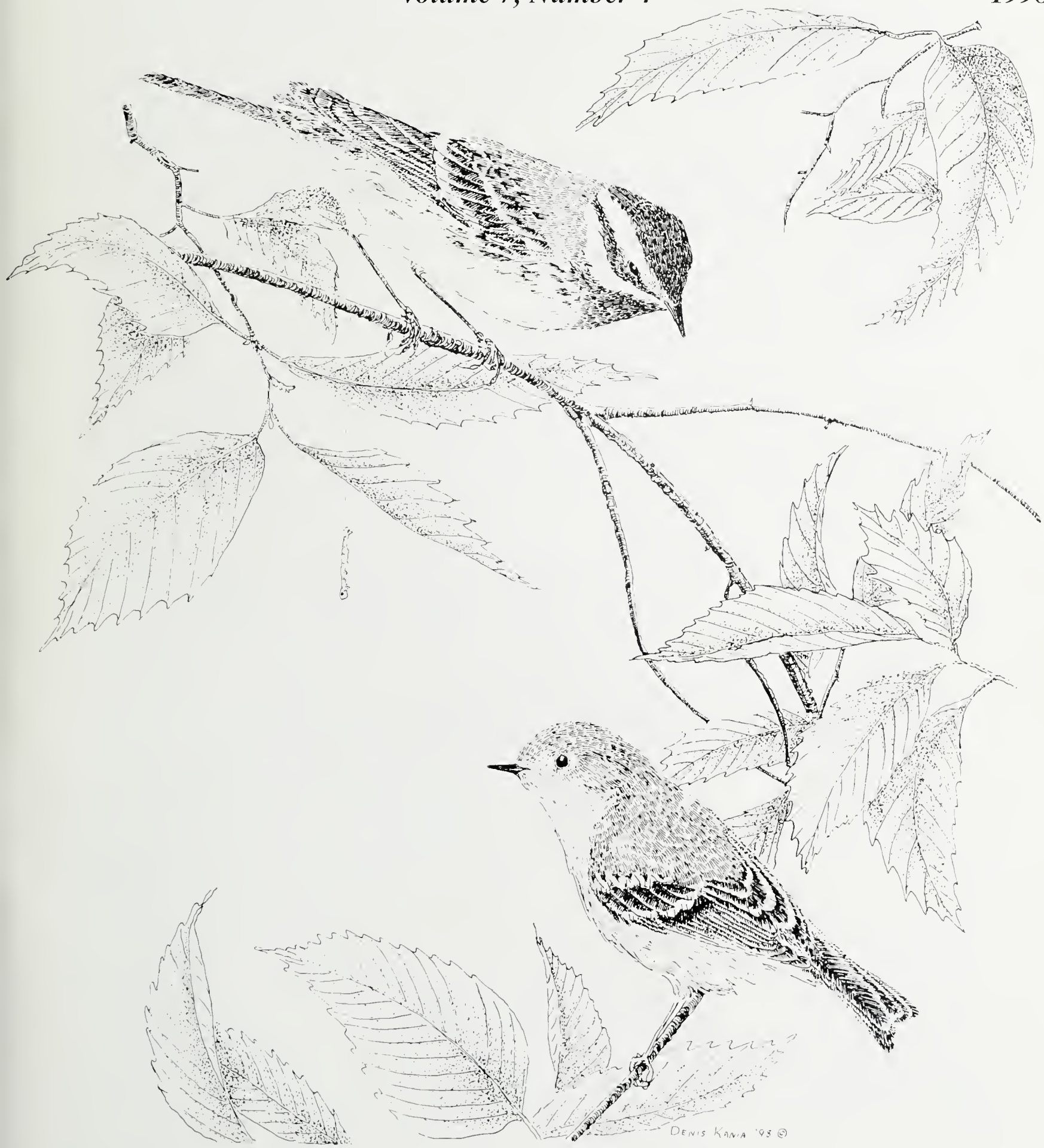

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Letter from Editor

In its sixth edition of the North American birds checklist, the American Ornithologists Union removed Burrrowing Owl from the genus *Speotyto* and placed it into the genus Athene, then put it back into the genus *Speotyto* in 1991, and most recently back into the genus *Athene*.

Cliff and Cave Swallows, once in the genus *Petrochelidon*, then moved to the genus *Hirundo* in 1983 are back into the genus *Petrochelidon*.

What's going on here? Can't AOU make up its mind?

Well, actually, it can't though the checklist committee members are trying. The reason is the latest technology, which allows scientists to examine DNA, chromosomes and other microscopic structures in a bird species. These techniques reveal clues on how birds are related to one another and to what genus and species they belong. But it's a relatively new venture, and so it has the AOU on its toes trying to put things in order.

This is fascinating stuff for birders – first, because it changes their life lists, with all the splits and combinations, and secondly, because it puts us into the realm of science, a place we birders tend to enjoy.

In this issue, Doug Stotz, an IOS board member and newly appointed member of the AOU Checklist committee, takes us into the world of DNA, taxonomy and species separation. It's captivating reading for those cold windy March days before the ducks return and the spring bird counts come. Remember being a good birder doesn't mean just going out in the field, it also involves reading and research. Enjoy!

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Even in early winter, with its snows and subfreezing temperatures, our local cardinals know spring is coming. They are already singing from the tops of trees.

Now would be a good time to clean up your birding gear, review those warbler songs, and get yourself tuned up for the spring migration - just like the cardinal "tunes up" and practices its best territorial songs.

Have you recruited a new birder to our hobby? Invite your neighbors to take a bird walk with you. Introduce birdwatching to the next generation by volunteering to help youth groups learn about birds. Maybe you can infect them with the birding bug.

For the past two years, your Board of Directors has been developing some long-range plans and interesting and important opportunities, including youth birding activities. Our ability to put these plans into action requires that we expand our membership base. Please ask your non-member birding friends to join IOS. We need your help.

Bob Montgomery

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About Our Cover:

Black–throated Gray Warbler illustration by Denis Kania. Birders documented the sixth state record of this bird in Cook County in May 1998. For details, see seasonal highlights.

Taxonomy and the AOU Checklist:
Reasons for Changes in the Seventh Edition

By Douglas Stotz

I remember as a high school student in 1973 losing nine species from my life list based on the decisions of the checklist committee (AOU 1973). In return, I got a new grackle and the chance to add Thayer's Gull and Alder Flycatcher to my life list.

For years at a time, scientists working on the taxonomy of birds can discuss issues and revise our taxonomic knowledge of North American birds, and little attention is paid to these activities by other scientists and the army of birders in North America. However, the AOU checklist committee, of which I am a newly appointed member, a group of seven to ten ornithologists appointed by the American Ornithologists' Union, the oldest, most prestigious scientific ornithological organization in North America, produces a new Checklist of North American Birds at irregular intervals of 15 to 20 years. When this happens, it has far–reaching effects. This checklist is an unusual entity, a semi–official taxonomy of a group of organisms. No other taxonomic group has anything like it. For scientists, it provides a taxonomy that most will immediately adopt in their work. Most ornithological journals in North America require its taxonomy be followed in any papers published in that journal. For specialists in most fields of science, it means when they work with birds, they have a reliable authority for determining with what species they are working and what to call those species. For the birder, it affects the English names we use, the order of species in our field guides and, perhaps most importantly, the number of species on our life lists.

Last summer, the seventh edition was published (AOU 1998). It covers 2008 North American species, including Middle America south through Panama, as well as the Hawaiian Islands. Since amateur birding

Drawing of Blue–headed Vireo by Denis Kania. The Seventh Edition of the AOU Checklist split Solitary Vireo into three species. One of them is the Blue–headed Vireo (Vireo solitarius) of eastern North America.

really began developing as a major recreational activity following the publication of the first Peterson Field Guide (Peterson 1934), we've gone from the fourth edition to the seventh, and there have been huge changes in the level of knowledge about North American birds, the taxonomic philosophy used to determine relationships and define species, and the technology used to study them.

A number of factors drive the changes in the taxonomy of North American birds. Here I discuss two major categories: changes in taxonomic philosophy and the advent of new technology.

The basic taxonomic philosophy that has guided the AOU checklist committee since at least the 1940s is a school of thought called the evolutionary school of taxonomy. Since the fifth edition (AOU 1959), defining species has been explicitly based on the biological species concept. Both of these approaches have been challenged by other ideas and those other ideas have greatly influenced how bird taxonomy is done and what the checklist presents as the accepted taxonomy of North American birds.

Taxonomic philosophy

Taxonomic philosophy is one of the great sleep aids ever invented. Just read a page or two about the epistomological basis of phylogenetic reconstruction, and I guarantee your insomnia will be cured. However, these philosophical discussions have been crucial in our increasing understanding of the relationships among different types of organisms, in this case, among birds. I will try to make this discussion as painless as possible.

Three main schools of taxonomic philosophy exist.

* The phenetic school bases the classification of organisms on overall similarity. It does not specifically try to discern relationships, but the more vocal practitioners would claim that, in practice, it usually does.

* Phylogenetic systematics explicitly attempts to reconstruct the evolutionary history of a group and then transfer that to the classification. In this school, historical knowledge is the crucial element, and the classification should strictly represent that history. The crucial difference from a practical standpoint is that phylogentic systematics views only shared derived characters as providing information about the evolution of the group. An example of shared derived character is feathers in birds relative to reptiles. We join all birds into one group, because they share a characteristic " feathers" that developed early in their evolution, but after they split from reptiles.

This is contrasted with shared primitive characteristics. These are characters that were already present in the group and never changed through evolutionary time. An example of this is flight in birds, relative to flightless birds. Flying is the primitive condition, flightless birds have developed from flying relatives, so we would not join together all the flying birds as a group because flight is a shared primitive character. Flightlessness has evolved multiple times in birds, so even shared derived characters can give false information.

* Evolutionary systematics essentially classifies birds according to their relationships (like the phylogenetic school), but does not provide a clear methodology for either determining the relationships or classifying the organisms. The flavor of evolutionary systematics is provided by the perhaps apocryphal quote that "a genus is defined as whatever the expert in that group of organisms says it is." Essentially, phylogenetic systematics now completely dominates taxonomic work in birds, but many groups of birds still have not been thoroughly studied from this perspective. So, many of the changes, reversals, and questionable decisions you'll encounter below result from the fact that we are still in a transition period from one taxonomic philosophy to another.

Species concepts

How we define species is an issue that is gathering importance among taxonomists. In the AOU checklist, we use the biological species concept. The checklist is based on whether populations interbreed. Traill's Flycatcher was split into Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher because the two song–types "fitz–bew" and "fee–bee–o" do not interbreed where they occur together. Yellow–shafted and Red–Shafted Flickers have been lumped into one species because, where they come into contact (the Great Plains), they breed with one another and hybridize broadly. In the 1960s and 1970s, in the name of biological species, many species were lumped because of hybridization occurring to some degree. I remember as a high school student in 1973 losing 9 species from my life list (a heron, a goose, a hawk, 2 flickers, a warbler, an oriole, and 2 juncos; I lost a third junco two years later) based on the decisions of the checklist committee (AOU 1973). In return, I got a new grackle (Great–tailed Grackle), and the chance to add Thayer's Gull and Alder Flycatcher to my life list. Life seemed very unfair. Since then, though, I've gotten the oriole back, as Bullock's and Baltimore Oriole were resplit, and one flicker, with Gilded Flicker being returned to specific status. The biological species concept is still being used, but new studies, and especially genetic studies, are documenting that massive interbreeding was required in order to keep populations from diverging, and that this was not occurring in many of the populations that we have considered subspecies recognizable in the field. The Solitary Vireo is just the latest bird to be split as the extent of genetic differences among the populations was recognized. Now we are gaining

species for our life lists faster than we are losing them because of taxonomic changes at the species level.

However, the phylogenetic species concies concept is challenging the biological species concept for supremacy. It argues that species should be based on the differences among populations and does not consider the issue of reproductive compatibility to be relevant, as such. A species is defined as the smallest diagnosible units (this is a population that has a character that distinguishes from other populations) with a parental pattern of ancestry and descent (this ensures that males, females, and juveniles of one species are not considered different species, and neither are plumage aberrations such as albinos or dark morph hawks). Most practicing taxonomists use some form of this species concept now, although it is still undergoing revision and has not completely displaced the biological species concept. However, I rather suspect that it will over the next 30 years or so. When it does, the number of species of birds recognized in North America will probably about double, and in the world will go from the current about 9,700 to somewhere between 18,000 and 25,000. Although, it is not officially in use for the AOU checklist committee, I think it has influenced the treatment of isolated populations. The split of the Scrub Jay into three species, for example, has its roots in the phylogenetic species concept.

The role of technology

Two technological features of modern life have had a huge effect on bird taxonomy that is only just beginning to be reflected in compilations such as the AOU checklist. These are the computer, which has allowed the development of much more sophisticated analyses, and increasing knowledge of genetics, especially DNA studies. Computers are essential to modern taxonomic studies because they enable researchers to analyze vast amounts of data and to perform complicated analyses. It is no accident that the phenetic and phylogenetic approaches have arisen in the last 30 years. Both rely heavily on the ability of computers to analyze large amounts of data, and do many analyses in a short period of time.

Biochemical studies have revolutionized taxonomic studies in many groups of organisms, including birds. The first studies were in the 1960s when Charles Sibley analyzed egg–white proteins to look at relationships among families. This was rapidly superseded by work using proteins gathered from body tissues and blood. In the late 1970s, Sibley was back on the scene with his DNA hybridization studies. The technique of DNA hybridization is a little complex, but basically goes like this. DNA is a molecule with two strands of a sugar with molecules called nucleotides sticking out from these strands. There are four different kinds of nucleotides: adenine, guanine, thymine, and cytosine (A, G; T, and C from now on). A and T, and C and G can form moderately strong chemical bonds, which join the two strands of DNA together in the form of a helix, basically a twisted ladder. Genetic changes between species primarily result from changes in the order of the nucleotides along a strand of DNA. The order of the nucleotides determines the order of amino acids in proteins, and this is the heart of the system of heredity in all life. In DNA hybridization, scientists attempt to measure how different the nucleotide order is in the DNA of one species compared to another. To do this, first a DNA sample of species 1 is heated. This causes the chemical bonds between the nucleotides joining the two strands to break, giving single strands of DNA. This DNA is then radioactively marked. It is then joined with a much larger sample of unmarked DNA from species 2. This mixture is cooled, which allows the DNA to reform the chemical bonds and again you have double stranded DNA. Because the mixture is dominated by the unmarked DNA of species 2, the radioactive strands of species 1 join not with the DNA of their own species, but with the DNA of species 2. So the mixture now contains, unmarked DNA of species 2, and marked DNA that is hybrid; one strand is radioactively marked and comes from species 1, the other stand is unmarked and comes from species 2. Now when this hybrid DNA is heated, the two strands will dissociate and become single strands. The temperature at which the dissociation occurs will be higher if the two strands match up well and progressively lower as the match between strands is poorer. So, by measuring the temperature at which the dissociation occurs one can estimate how different the DNA of two species is. Two species whose DNA dissociates at higher temperature have more similar DNA and are more closely related than those whose DNA dissociates at lower temperature and which have less similar DNA.

Sibley used DNA hybridization to look at relationships among all birds down to the subfamily level and in some groups much lower (Sibley and Ahlquist 1985, 1990). This work has been very influential, although there are some problems with Sibley's analyses, and he tended to over-interpret his data. Over the past decade, other DNA techniques have become important, including DNA restriction mapping and DNA fingerprinting. These techniques rely on enzymes that chop the DNA in certain places based on the nucleotide sequence. They provide somewhat finer resolution than DNA hybridization. Finally, DNA sequencing, where the scientist actually gets the complete order of the nucelotides on a piece of DNA, and so can compare exactly the differences among species or even individuals within a species has become an important tool within the last five years. So far, it

has had its biggest impact among closely related genera and species within genera. The changes in the seventh checklist only reflect DNA sequence studies to a very limited degree, but I suspect that by the eighth edition, they will have had a huge impact on our understanding of bird relationships.

Taxonomic changes in the seventh edition of the AOU checklist

The changes in the seventh edition that affect birds north of the Mexican border are discussed below. I don't discuss changes in the order of species within genera. These changes tend to be ephemeral, and are often based on little evidence. For Illinois species, the soon to be published Illinois State Checklist will provide the correct order. However, I do discuss changes in order at a higher level. The taxonomic sequence of birds is supposed to provide information on relationships. Basically, the more closely related things are, the closer they are to one another in the list. See as an example below the change in location of shrikes and vireos.

In addition, the sequence of birds is supposed to go from the most primitive birds to the most advanced. This means that loons, at the start of the list for North America are viewed as the most primitive birds in North America, while European Tree Sparrow, as the last species, is in theory the most advanced. Kind of sad that the pinnacle of avian evolution is thought to be European Tree Sparrow and House Sparrow. I have problems with both aspects of taxonomic order, but they are beyond the scope of this article, amazing as that might seem.

For most of the changes discussed below, you should look at the checklist to get more details and references.

**Cathartidae* (New World Vultures) moved from Falconiformes (diuurnal raptors) to Ciconiiformes (storks and herons). This is perhaps the most controversial change made by the Checklist. It makes New World Vultures the nearest relative of the storks rather than their traditional location as a family among the diurnal raptors; note that Old World Vultures remain as true raptors, being considered members of the family Accipitridae, which includes hawks and eagles. This change has a long history, and was first suggested in print in the 1960s. A number of features of vulture morphology have been used to support this view, but the data that finally seemed to corroborate this idea involved DNA hybridization (Sibley and Alhquist 1990)

However, in 1994, Carole Griffiths upset the applecart (Griffiths 1994). She examined the morphology of the syringes (these are the structures that birds use to make sounds, analogous to the larynx in humans; birds have two of these structures, which enables them to make two unrelated sounds at the same time, something the human larynx can't do) of raptors and other types of large non–passerine birds. Syringeal morphology has been used successfully to understand relationships of groups of birds several times, most notably in flycatchers, where results have been consistent with those gathered from DNA studies. Griffiths found that syringeal morphology supported the traditional placement of New World Vultures among the raptors. She further analyzed the charcteristics that had been used to support the strong relationship between vultures and storks, and concluded that the evidence was equivocal, in large part because these studies had not distinguished between shared derived characteristics and shared primitive characteristics. She also reanalyzed the DNA hybridization data and concluded that they actually supported the traditional placement of vultures, rather than the previously reported support for a close relationship between vultures and storks. To be frank, I think this change is definitely premature, and likely is wrong.

**Falconidae* divided into 3 subfamilies instead of 4, the forest–falcons (represented in north Mexico by a vagrant record in southern Texas of Barred Forest–Falcon), the caracaras, and the true Falcons (only group in Illinois). Note that this is based on the same work of Griffiths that the checklist does not follow for the placement of vultures.

*The order of Anatidae has been changed based on analysis of the skeletons in the group, and more subfamilies recognized. In North America, the subfamilies in order are the Whistling–Ducks, Geese and Swans, and True Ducks. The swans have been placed after the geese, Steller's Eider is placed in front of rather than after the other eiders, and Oldsquaw is placed in front of the scoters rather than after. In addition, Masked Duck moved out of the genus *Oxyura* (which it shared with Ruddy Duck, among others, into monotypic genus *Nomonyx*.

*Gray Hawk moved out of Buteo into monotypic genus *Asturina*. The basis for this move is extremely weak and I am surprised that it has been adopted.

*Spruce Grouse moved out of *Dendrogapus* into genus *Falcipennis*. This species was placed in *Dendrogapus* with Blue Grouse in the sixth checklist (AOU 1983; it had previously been placed in the monotypic genus *Canachites*). It turned out that, when grouse were studied in detail using DNA sequencing, these species were not particularly closely related and for that grouping to make sense, one would also have to include the ptarmigans and prairie–chickens (Ellsworth et al 1996).

*New World Quail joined together in subfamily within Phasianidae.

*Long–billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) split from Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The Long–billed Murrelet replaces Marbled Murrelet in Asia, but interestingly nearly all or perhaps all of the specimens of vagrant "Marbled" Murrelets in the interior of North America have been actually Long–billed Murrelets.

*The order of the genera *Catharacta* (skuas) and *Stercorarius* (jaegers) has been reversed.

*The specific name for American Golden–Plover changed back to *dominica* from *dominicus*.

*Parakeet Auklet (*Cyclorrhynchus*) is moved into the genus Aethia, with Least, Whiskered and Crested Auklets.

*The Canary–winged Parakeet split into two species, Canary–winged Parakeet (*Brotogeris versicolurus*) and Yellow–chevroned Parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*). Interestingly, in both Florida and California, the Canary–winged Parakeet is the species that historically had been established; however, in both states, it appears that Yellow–chevroned Parakeets are replacing Canary–winged Parakeet.

*Burrowing Owl, long in the monotypic genus *Speotyto*, moved into the genus *Athene* (contains several small Old World Owls, most notably Little Owl) in the sixth edition, then returned to Speotyto in 1991 (AOU 1991) based on studies of chromosome structure, is returned again to Athene for no apparent reason. Make this change in pencil, Ithink.

*The specific name for Olive–sided Flycatcher changes from borealis to cooperi. This change is due to cooperi being the oldest name used for the species.

*The order of the families of oscine passerines has undergone a number of minor changes and one major change. Shrikes (*Laniidae*) and vireos (*Vireonidae*) are placed next to one another, in front of crows and jays (Corvidae) and this whole group is placed immediately in front of larks. To understand this change, we need to conduct a brief review of the taxonomy of the order Passeriformes, the perching birds. In your field guides, this is everything after the woodpeckers. The Passeriformes constitute over half of the world's birds. They are divided into 2 major subgroups, the suboscines (represented in North America only by the flycatchers, but with many families in the tropics) and the oscines (songbirds). The vireos have always been considered rather atypical members of what is called the nine–primaried oscine assemblage (most songbirds have 10 primaries, which are the outermost flight feathers; if you look at some flying birds, for example, falcons and terns, you can see a crook along the back edge of the wing. That crook corresponds to the wrist. The flight feathers outside the crook attach to the hand bones and are primaries; inside the crook, the flight feathers attach to the ulna, and are secondaries). The nine–primaried oscines are the birds at the end of the order, currently starting with vireos and warblers and including blackbirds, tanagers, and all the various finch and sparrows groups. DNA hybridization has shown that vireos do not belong with their traditional relatives, but with shrikes. In addition, it has indicated that there are two major groups of ten–primaried oscines; a set of mostly Old World species, represented in the New World by only the shrikes, vireos, and crows and jays and another group that includes all the other North American oscines. The specifics of this DNA hybridization result have not been confirmed by other studies, but other studies have confirmed some of the general conclusions.

*Cliff and Cave Swallows are taken out of the genus *Hirundo* (contains Barn Swallow) and placed in Petrochelidon, where they had been placed before they were moved to Hirundo (AOU 1983).

*The genus *Parus*, containing chickadees, titmice, and, in the Old World, tits, is split into 6 genera. In the New World, there are two of these genera, *Baeolophus* containing the titmice, and *Poecile*, containing the chickadees. This is based on DNA hybridization studies.

*Plain Titmouse is divided into two species, the Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus of the Pacific coast, and Juniper Titmouse Baeolophus griseus of the Great Basin and inland mountain ranges.

They differ in a number of charcteristics, and genetically are as distinct as many other species pairs in other families.

*The Muscicapidae is taken apart and split into a number of families. In North America, there are the kinglets (Regulidae), Old World Warblers (Sylviidae, includes the gnatcatchers), Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae, represented in North America only by some asiatic vagrants), the Thrushes (Turdidae), and the Babblers (Timaliidae, represented in North America by Wrentit). Other than recognizing the kinglets as a separate family, this returns to the taxonomy used before the sixth edition of the checklist. A number of studies using various molecular and morphological characteristics agree with the break–up of this family, but conclude that we are a long way from understanding the relationships among these and related families, or even within some of the bigger families. This group can charitably be called a taxonomic mess.

*Solitary Vireo is split into 3 species, the Blue–headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) of eastern North America, Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassini*) of the Pacific coast and northern Rockies, and Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*) of the southern Rockies. A number of studies looking at morphology, vocalizations, and genetics, both DNA sequence data and allozyme data (this looks the structure of proteins rather than DNA) support this view. The case for separating Cassin's and Blue–headed Vireo is not as strong as the case for splitting off Plumbeous Vireo, but I think that the split will probably hold.

*Olive Warbler is moved out of the Parulidae into a monotypic family, Peucedramidae. Olive Warbler has been a problematic species for a long time. DNA studies indicate that it is clearly not a true warbler, as do a number of behavioral and skeletal traits. However, its nearest relatives are unclear.

*The Cardinalinae (includes things like Northern Cardinal, Pyrrhuloxia, Indigo Bunting, Rose–breasted Grosbeak and relatives) is moved from in front of the Emberizinae (New World Sparrows) to behind the Emberizinae. This was to allow the placement of several tropical genera that may be more closely related to tanagers between the tanagers and the more typical Emberizinae.

*The Five–striped Sparrow is moved to Aimophila (with such species as Cassin's and Bachman's Sparrow) from Amphispiza, which contains Black–throated and Sage Sparrow. This reverses the change made in the sixth AOU checklist.

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— Douglas Stotz
Field Museum of Natural History
Roosevelt Road at
Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL

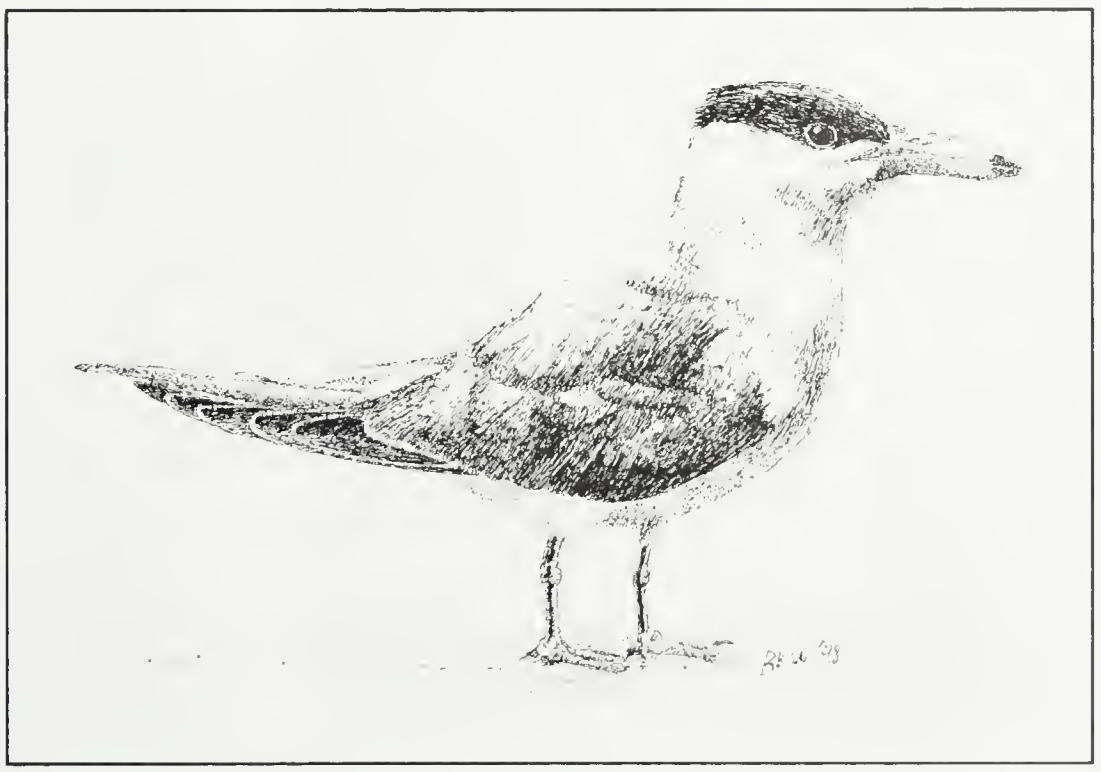
The 1998 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count

by Vernon M. Kleen

On Saturday, 9 May 1998, Illinois' 27th Statewide Spring Bird Count, daytime winds ranged from a respectable 5 to 15 mph, with only occasional gusts exceeding 20 mph at isolated locations. The wind direction, however, was a different matter; it was so variable that adjacent counties often reported it from totally opposite directions. Skies were clear or mostly clear over much of the state, but, cloudy to mostly cloudy (including a trace of rain in the early afternoon) in the extreme southern counties. Morning temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to low 50s in the north and the low to upper 50s in the south; daytime highs reached the 70s statewide, but, mostly in the low 70s.

For the second consecutive year the Spring Bird Count coincided with International Migratory Bird Day. Our results will also appear as part of the grandiose "international" report. Count data have become major resources for population analyses, especially for some of the state's threatened and endangered species. The data have been used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to monitor migratory birds; comparative results have shown a good degree of correspondence with the Breeding Bird Survey trends for Illinois' resident species.

For publication purposes, most comparative information is presented in paragraph rather than tabular form. Table 1 provides a visual record of the county results showing the number of counties in which each species occurred, as well as the high count totals.



Caspian Tern drawing by Brian K. Willis.

The count date was rather late in 1998, so northern counties were, as last year, expected to report the greatest number of species, and, in fact, they did: 7 of the 10 counties reporting 150 or more species were in the state's northern half (Table 2). Counties with 160 or more species this year included Cook (180), Lake (172), Union (170), Will (166), Champaign (163), La Salle (161) and Massac (160).

Mediocre Year for Records

Every year new records are established; 1998 was, at best, a mediocre year.

Total species reported this year was 259, the lowest total in recent years and the first time there have been fewer than 260 species since 1993.

Total birds reported this year was 517,530, only 87% as many as the record number set two years ago.

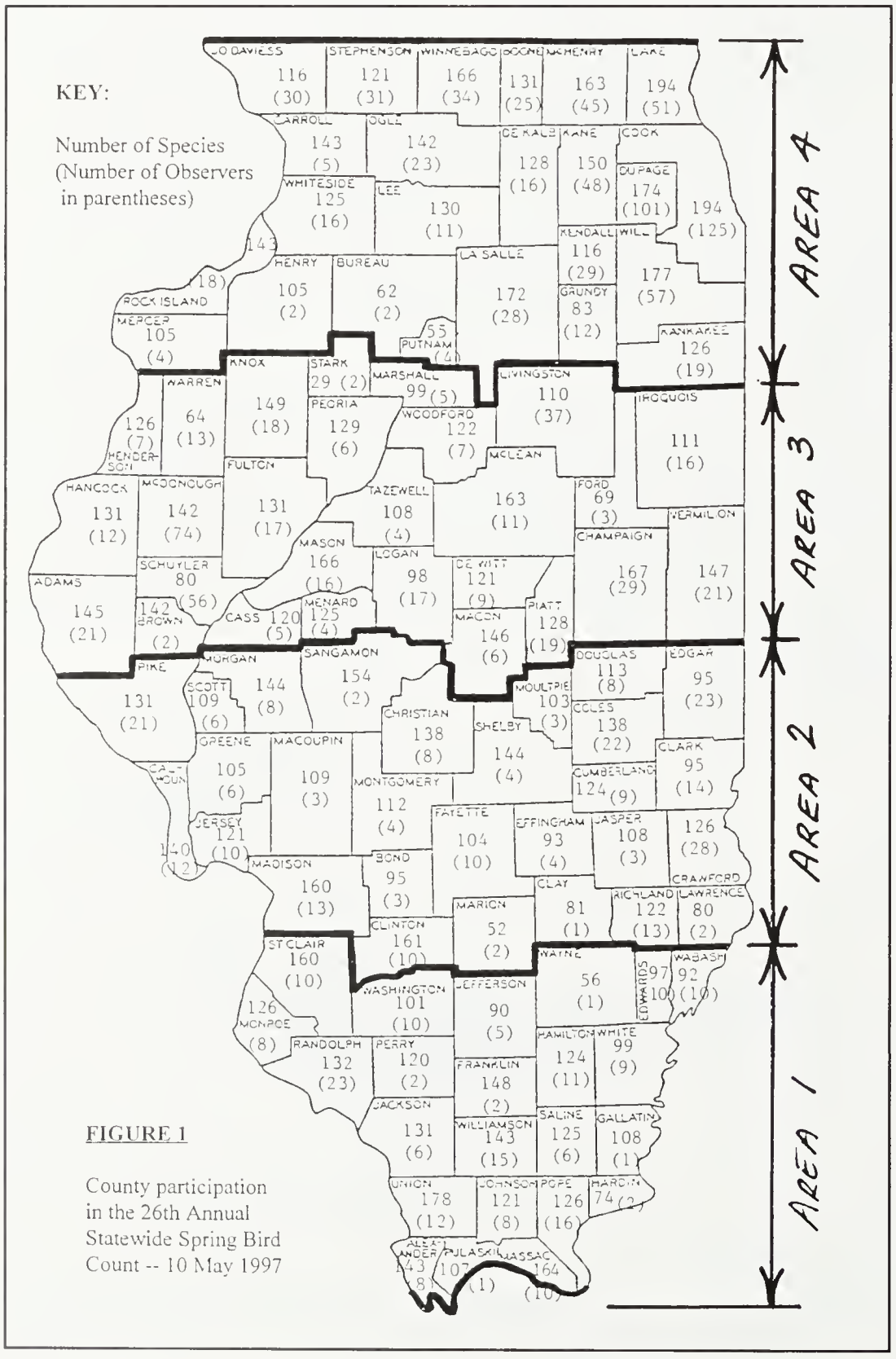


FIGURE 1

County participation in the 26th Annual Statewide Spring Bird Count -- 10 May 1997

The number of participating counties was 100. 1986 and 1997 remain the only years in the Spring Bird Count's history in which reports were received from all 102 counties.

Number of participants: 1,495, noticeably fewer than other recent years. Party miles walked: 2,257, also noticeably fewer than other recent years. Party miles driven: 23,774, exceeding last year's record by more than 700 miles. Total party miles: 26,035. Party hours walked: 2,969, the first time with fewer than 3000 hours in several years. Party hours driven: 2,140, a new record. Perhaps the new party hour and party mile guidelines established last year for birding while bicycling, boating, sitting, fishing, feeder–watching, played a role in the way figures were computed and reported. Total party hours: 5,109. Species in 90% or more counties: 49, 6 fewer than the record. Counties with 100 or more species: 69, considerably fewer than other recent years and 11 less than the record.

Counties with 20 or more observers: 18 Cook (105), Du Page (89), Lake (68), McDonough (65), McHenry (52), Kane (46), Schuyler (46), Will (45), Champaign (33), Pike (33), Edgar (32), Winnebago (32), La Salle (31), Livingston (29), Boone (28), Stephenson (27), Jo Daviess (24) and Crawford (21). Normally 20 or more counties meet this criteria

For number crunchers out there, two new figures are presented for the first time: the average number of species for participating counties, and the average number of species for all 102 counties. For 1998, those numbers are 112 and 110, respectively.

Another interesting comparison is the amount of birding time and effort in each quarter of the state; it is apparent that the farther north you go, the greater the birding effort (which could translate into more birds per county).

Widespread Species

At least 49 species were reported in 9 out of every 10 counties (90%) this year. In this year's count, 9 species were reported from all 100 counties: Killdeer, Blue Jay, American Crow, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red–winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown–headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow.

The other most widespread species were: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red–tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red–headed Woodpecker, Red–bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White–breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow–rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White–throated Sparrow, White–crowned Sparrow, Rose–breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Twenty species have been identified as most abundant. When these species and their corresponding numbers are compared, some species are consistently in the "top–20", others are not. This year, all 20 have been in the "top 20" for 11 or more years; occasionally, a new species reaches the "top 20" level and last year the Palm Warbler reached this level for only the 3rd time. In 1998, the top two species were the same as in most past years.

Data from this count show that the top five species are nearly always the top five with numbers ranging from 20,000 to 70,000 birds. Also, a middle group of species (goldfinch, dove, cardinal, Blue Jay, crow, Barn Swallow, and cowbird) are nearly always in the top 20 and have fairly steady annual numbers within the range of 10,000 to 20,000 birds. A third group of species occasionally occurs high in the top 20 because of a migration phenomena (such as a fallout on count day), but more often are lower in the top 20 or do not make the list at all. Examples include the Ring–billed Gull, American Golden Plover, Yellow–rumped and Palm Warblers and Tree Swallows.

Canada Goose is now firmly established in 6th position; this species continues to gain in numbers and is within 5000 birds of being as com-

TABLE 1 —
Species Account for the 1998 Spring Bird Count

Key to Table:
** = New Spring Bird Count Species (CAPS & BOLD FACE)
* = New Spring Bird Count High Total
# = Ties Spring Bird Count High Total

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Common Loon	19#	50*	Lake	(#14)
Pied–billed Grebe	59	268	Cook	(33)
Horned Grebe	4	10	Lake	(5)
Eared Grebe	2	4#	Winnebago	(*3)
Western Grebe	1#	1#	Boone	(#1)
American White Pelican	13*	182	Hancock	(65)
Double–crested Cormorant	60	5351	Cook	(1429)
American Bittern	27	42	Jasper	(6)
Least Bittern	6#	11#	Massac	(#4)
Great Blue Heron	98	3559	Calhoun	(255)
Great Egret	49	1077	Will	(344)
Snowy Egret	5	44*	St. Clair	(*22)
Little Blue Heron	16	121	Madison	(42)
Tricolored Heron	1#	1#	Will	(#1)
Cattle Egret	29	528	St. Clair	(258)
Green Heron	79	514	Will	(37)
Black–crown Night–Heron	19	891	Cook	(759)
Yellow–crown Night–Heron	7	10	Jackson	(3)
dark ibis, species	1	1	Du Page	(1)
Black Vulture	8*	34	Massac	(13)
Turkey Vulture	97	3236*	Pike	(144)
Greater White–front Goose	1	1	Pulaski	(1)
Snow Goose	7	15	St. Clair	(5)
Canada Goose	96*	18025*	Du Page	(*2949)
Mute Swan	19	102	Lake	(48)
Tundra Swan	1	3#	Carroll	(*3)
Wood Duck	90	2372	Union	(*274)
Gadwall	17	100	Brown	(20)
American Wigeon	7	25	Monroe	(7)
Amer. Black Duck	7	19	Du Page	(10)
Mallard	93	6208	Du Page	(909)
Blue–winged Teal	80	1974	Monroe	(215)
Cinnamon Teal	2*	2#	Two counties	(1)
Northern Shoveler	40	371	Morgan	(*117)
Northern Pintail	6	12	Jersey	(4)
Green–winged Teal	15	40	St. Clair	(8)
Redhead	4	6	Two counties	(2)
Ring–necked Duck	14	49	Randolph	(11)
Greater Scaup	2	3	Lake	(2)
Lesser Scaup	28	145	McLean	(16)
Surf Scoter	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Bufflehead	11	34	Two counties	(7)
Hooded Merganser	17	60	Williamson	(12)
Common Merganser	1	1	Lake	(1)
Red–breasted Merganser	22	2325*	Lake	(1276)
Ruddy Duck	31	333	La Salle	(64)
Osprey	20	28	Two counties	(3)
Mississippi Kite	5	26	Two counties	(8)
Bald Eagle	19*	55*	Union	(#14)
Northern Harrier	35	73	McHenry	(7)
Sharp–shinned Hawk	46*	92	Lake	(10)

mon as the House Sparrow. It is also the only species in the top 20 to set a new high count total, surpassing last year's number by almost 1000 birds. If Spring Bird Count records were used as the primary figures for population estimates, the Canada Goose population would be 78% and 57% as large as the House Sparrow and European Starling populations, respectively.

Another noteworthy comparison is the Ring–billed Gull (in the top 20 for only the 14th time). Nearly twice as many birds were counted as last year.

One species that did not make the top 20 list is the Rock Dove.

Least Common Species

At least 30 species were at the opposite extreme of the abundance curve, being reported from only one or two counties (21 and 9 species, respectively). Those reported from a single county appear in boldface in Table 1. Champaign County's Eurasian Collared–Dove is a first-time occurrence for this species, which brings the grand total of species for the Spring Bird Count up to 320 through 1998. This dove was still considered an "exotic" in last year's report. Please note the continued inclusion of the Ringed Turtle–Dove and Monk Parakeet (as exotics) in the table totals.

Other noteworthy singles this year were the Western Grebe (4th year), Tricolored Heron (2nd year), a dark ibis (1st year, but would have been the 4th for either of the two known species), Black–necked Stilt (4th year), Lesser Black–backed Gull (3rd year), and Western Kingbird (5th year). Some of the regulars not reported by anyone this year were: Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Black–bellied Plover, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, American Tree Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur.

TABLE 1, *continued*

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Cooper's Hawk	45*	163*	Du Page	(22)
Red–shouldered Hawk	29	83*	Union	(11)
Broad–winged Hawk	35	91	Champaign	(15)
Swainson's Hawk	3#	6#	Kane	(3)
Red–tailed Hawk	99	1797*	Du Page	(100)
American Kestrel	90*	592	Cook	(30)
Merlin	2	2	Two counties	(#1)
Peregrine Falcon	9*	10*	Pulaski	(2)
Gray Partridge	3	7	Lee	(4)
Ring–necked Pheasant	64	808	Ford	(91)
Greater Prairie–Chicken	1	46	Jasper	(46)
Wild Turkey	65	516	Jo Daviess	(57)
Northern Bobwhite	87	1368	Crawford	(114)
Yellow Rail	1	1	Knox	(1)
King Rail	4	5	Madison	(2)
Virginia Rail	11	51	Two counties	(10)
Sora	44	317	Lake	(42)
Common Moorhen	8	21	Monroe	(6)
American Coot	82	4628	Brown	(460)
Sandhill Crane	12*	136*	McHenry	(38)
American Golden–Plover	10	888	Champaign	(377)
Semipalmated Plover	19	54	Massac	(11)
Killdeer	100	3593	Kane	(125)
Black–necked Stilt	1#	1	Kendall	(1)
Greater Yellowlegs	34	266	Pulaski	(46)
Lesser Yellowlegs	51	488	Logan	(32)
Solitary Sandpiper	58	305	Lake	(35)
Willet	4	4	Four counties	(1)
Spotted Sandpiper	58	498	Lake	(74)
Upland Sandpiper	7	14	Edgar	(4)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11	50	Gallatin	(11)
Least Sandpiper	31	229	Two counties	(23)
White–rumped Sandpiper	2	6	Two counties	(3)
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	100	Brown	(25)
Dunlin	4	19	Monroe	(9)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Stilt Sandpiper	1	1	Morgan	(1)
Short–billed Dowitcher	9	38	Williamson	(12)
Common Snipe	17	36	Two counties	(5)
American Woodcock	31	130	Two counties	(18)
Wilson's Phalarope	3	6	Clinton	(3)
Bonaparte's Gull	7	23	Lake	(12)
Ring–billed Gull	63*	16405	Cook	(7560)
Herring Gull	14	1617	Cook	(719)
Thayer's Gull	12#	3	Lake	(2)
Lesser Black–backed Gull	1	1	Lake	(1)
Glaucous Gull	1	3	Lake	(*3)
Great Black–backed Gull	2#	2	Two counties	(1)
Caspian Tern	17	1573*	Lake	(*823)
Common Tern	11	183	Lake	(125)
Forster's Tern	28	579	Lake	(309)
Black Tern	10	42	La Salle	(10)
Rock Dove	99*	5446	Cook	(1115)
EUR COLLARED–DOVE	1*	1*	Champaign	(*1)
Mourning Dove	99	11877	La Salle	(443)
Black–billed Cuckoo	15	25	Two counties	(5)
Yellow–billed Cuckoo	62	384	Union	(85)
Barn Owl	1	3#	Union	(#3)
Eastern Screech–Owl	45	107	Union	(19)
Great Horned Owl	74	258	Union	(18)
Barred Owl	72	407	Union	(*66)
Long–eared Owl	1	1	Lee	(1)
Short–eared Owl	1	2	Jasper	(2)
Common Nighthawk	60	314	Richland	(20)
Chuck–will's–widow	15#	48	Union	(18)
Whip–poor–will	59	454	Union	(90)
Chimney Swift	97	6695	Cook	(415)
Ruby–thr Hummingbird	79	747	Schuyler	(55)
Belted Kingfisher	85	389	Three counties	(18)
Red–headed Woodpecker	99	2594	McDonough	(191)
Red–bellied Woodpecker	99	2410	McDonough	(131)

Birders reported only 64 new state records (marked by an asterisk in the Table 1): 18 species were reported from a greater number of counties; 24 species achieved a new count day total; and 22 species were found in record numbers for a single county. In addition, there were 35 records that tied the previous high totals (identified by the # sign in the Table). The 99 new and tied records this year is rather low compared to years past.

The largest percent increases over previous records for the number of counties reporting the species were: Peregrine Falcon (29%, from 7 to 9), and Henslow's Sparrow (25%, from 8 to 10); for the total number of birds reported: Common Loon (25%, from 40 to 50), Snowy Egret (16%, from 38 to 44), Red–breasted Merganser (21%, from 1926 to 2325), Turkey Vulture (14%, from 2850 to 3236–2nd consecutive year of major increase), Bald Eagle (17%, from 47 to 55–2nd consecutive year of major increase), Cooper's Hawk (19%, from 139 to 166), Sandhill Crane (27%, from 107 to 136–2nd consecutive year for major increase), Caspian Tern (278%, from 416 to 1,573), Prothonotary Warbler (52%, from 454 to 692), Summer Tanager (31%, from 231 to 303), Henslow's Sparrow (356%, from 27 to 123), and White–crowned Sparrow (23%, from 4163 to 5106); and for the highest single county gain in birds reported: Snowy Egret (29%, 17 to 22), Wood Duck (13%, from 242 to 274), Caspian Tern (200%, from 274 to 823), Carolina Chickadee (24%, from 149 to 185), Northern Mockingbird (11%, from 99 to 110), Nashville Warbler (32%, from 324 to 427), Northern Parula (17%, from 112 to 131), Prothonotary Warbler (53%, from 146 to 224), Summer Tanager (28%, from 109 to 139), Henslow's Sparrow (512%, from 17 to 104), and White–crowned Sparrow (22%, from 1423 to 1732).

Species usually more common than reported this year were: American Golden Plover (only 888), Semipal-

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Yellow–bellied Sapsucker	13	32	Cook	(10)
Downy Woodpecker	95	1913	Du Page	(125)
Hairy Woodpecker	73	406	Cook	(26)
Northern Flicker	97	2019	Du Page	(150)
Pileated Woodpecker	58*	319*	Union	(#74)
Olive–sided Flycatcher	8	9	Du Page	(2)
Eastern Wood–Pewee	75	724	Union	(151)
Acadian Flycatcher	36	255	Union	(140)
Alder Flycatcher	1	1	Cook	(1)
Willow Flycatcher	13	38	Jackson	(*20)
Least Flycatcher	54	236	Cook	(18)
Eastern Phoebe	91	1072*	Union	(72)
Great Crested Flycatcher	86	1061	Union	(109)
Western Kingbird	1#	1#	Madison	(#1)
Eastern Kingbird	97	2611	Union	(199)
Loggerhead Shrike	36	130	Massac	(15)
White–eyed Vireo	49	480	Union	(118)
Bell's Vireo	15	21	St. Clair	(3)
Yellow–throated Vireo	62	299	Union	(40)
Blue–headed Vireo	26	66	Cook	(12)
Warbling Vireo	79	1505*	Pike	(#83)
Philadelphia Vireo	20	31	McHenry	(4)
Red–eyed Vireo	81	753	Union	(151)
Blue Jay	100	10539	Cook	(942)
American Crow	100	10133	Du Page	(863)
Fish Crow	10	102	Union	(27)
Horned Lark	93	2169	Adams	(118)
Purple Martin	93	3234	Pike	(328)
Tree Swallow	86	5852	Carroll	(567)
No. Rough–wing Swallow	84	3216	Carroll	(327)
Bank Swallow	66	3936	Carroll	(2006)
Cliff Swallow	52	2152	Randolph	(418)
Barn Swallow	99	9745	Cook	(537)
Carolina Chickadee	38#	1077	Union	(*185)
Black–capped Chickadee	61	2979	Du Page	(365)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Tufted Titmouse	99#	2973	Union	(198)
Red–breasted Nuthatch	39	175	Cook	(35)
White–breasted Nuthatch	94	1300	Union	(73)
Brown Creeper	19	36	Livingston	(8)
Carolina Wren	77	979	Union	(162)
Bewick's Wren	2	3	Adams	(#2)
House Wren	93	4649	Winnebago	(314)
Winter Wren	1	2	Winnebago	(2)
Sedge Wren	24*	89*	Madison	(12)
Marsh Wren	25	136	Grundy	(24)
Golden–crowned Kinglet	1	1	Will	(1)
Ruby–crowned Kinglet	50	928	Cook	(*525)
Blue–gray Gnatcatcher	80	2122	Union	(256)
Eastern Bluebird	98	3337*	Union	(226)
Veery	52	218	Cook	(43)
Gray–cheeked Thrush	4	3197	Union	(75)
Swainson's Thrush	70	636	Union	(159)
Hermit Thrush	24	131	Cook	(73)
Wood Thrush	89	1239	Union	(134)
American Robin	99	30878	Cook	(1814)
Gray Catbird	96	2726	Cook	(211)
Northern Mockingbird	71	913*	Union	(*110)
Brown Thrasher	97	2686	McDonough	(116)
European Starling	99	31790	Cook	(2417)
American Pipit	7	52	Clinton	(52)
Cedar Waxwing	65	1297	Jackson	(99)
Blue–winged Warbler	45	212	Cook	(31)
Golden–winged Warbler	34	97	Two counties	(12)
Tennessee Warbler	71	1646	Union	(240)
Orange–crowned Warbler	11	34	Cook	(12)
Nashville Warbler	70	1338	Cook	(*427)
Northern Parula	64	721	Union	(*131)
Yellow Warbler	87	1470	Du Page	(132)
Chestnut–sided Warbler	38	119	Cook	(16)
Magnolia Warbler	31	119	Will	(17)

mated Plover (only 54), Upland Sandpipers (only 14 – even though we know there's usually an excellent number in Will County at this time of year), and Bonaparte's Gull (only 23). Low numbers of shorebirds in general was indicative of the scarcity of shorebird habitat this year.

Table 2 identifies how much time and effort were expended to count the birds. The columns in Table 2 identify the AREA of the state where the county is located (1, 2, 3 or 4 as depicted in Figure 1), the number of species and birds reported, the number of observers and parties participating, the beginning and ending times (in the 24–hour system with owling hours before and/or after daylight hours marked by asterisks), the number of miles walked and driven, the number of hours walked and driven, and the compiler.

Finally, as you study the species accounts, you may note that some species are out of order compared to your checklists. A recent publication of the new Checklist of North American Birds by the American Ornithologists Union has reorganized some of these species. See Douglas Stotz's article in this issue for details.

Acknowledgments

Much thanks to every person who participated in the count and made these results possible. Many thanks, in particular, to all county compilers for their dedication and continued support of the count, in some cases, all 27 years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
1999 SPRING BIRD COUNT
Saturday, 8 May

— Vernon M. Kleen
Natural Heritage Division, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
524 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701

TABLE 1, *continued*

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Cape May Warbler	29	84	Two counties	(11)
Blk–throat Blue Warbler	7	12	Cook	(5)
Yellow–rumped Warbler	94	7332	Cook	(1293)
Blk–throat Green Warbler	54	613	Cook	(181)
Blackburnian Warbler	28	49	Union	(5)
Yellow–throated Warbler	33	173	Union	(*69)
Pine Warbler	20	67	Williamson	(11)
Prairie Warbler	15	138	Williamson	(46)
Palm Warbler	85	4064	Cook	(642)
Bay–breasted Warbler	18	55	Union	(24)
Blackpoll Warbler	41	339	Union	(110)
Cerulean Warbler	28	76	Union	(9)
Black–and–white Warbler	56	389	Cook	(86)
American Redstart	62	446	Carroll	(97)
Prothonotary Warbler	59	692*	Union	(*224)
Worm–eating Warbler	18	136#	Union	(99)
Ovenbird	69	616	Cook	(76)
Northern Waterthrush	64	554	Cook	(79)
Louisiana Waterthrush	43	162	Union	(41)
Kentucky Warbler	49	387	Union	(143)
Connecticut Warbler	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Mourning Warbler	5	5	Five counties	(1)
Common Yellowthroat	93	3681	Union	(348)
Hooded Warbler	14	37	Union	(19)
Wilson's Warbler	12	14	Two counties	(2)
Canada Warbler	3	4	Calhoun	(2)
Yellow–breasted Chat	57	430	Union	(100)
Summer Tanager	45#	303*	Union	(*139)
Scarlet Tanager	73	432	Union	(75)
Eastern Towhee	94	1669	Union	(109)
Chipping Sparrow	100*	5041	Winnebago	(405)
Clay–colored Sparrow	5	8	Cook	(3)
Field Sparrow	97	3670	Will	(178)
Vesper Sparrow	45	182	Macon	(16)
Lark Sparrow	35	179	Mason	(36)
Savannah Sparrow	62	508	Du Page	(70)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Grasshopper Sparrow	69	686	Will	(65)
Henslow's Sparrow	10*	123*	Union	(*104)
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	1	La Salle	(1)
Fox Sparrow	3	3	Three counties	(1)
Song Sparrow	98	6251	Du Page	(462)
Lincoln's Sparrow	25	221	Cook	(112)
Swamp Sparrow	55	1247	Cook	(236)
White–throated Sparrow	93	7727	Cook	(1918)
White–crowned Sparrow	98*	5106*	Cook	(*1732)
Dark–eyed Junco	4	9	Cook	(6)
Northern Cardinal	100	10851	Du Page	(475)
Rose–breasted Grosbeak	91	2077	Cook	(169)
Blue Grosbeak	26	90*	Union	(21)
Indigo Bunting	96	5064	Union	(640)
Dickcissel	75	2274	Union	(154)
Bobolink	73	1824	Randolph	(235)
Red–winged Blackbird	100	61916	Jo Daviess	(3230)
Eastern Meadowlark	99	6993	Union	(*628)
Western Meadowlark	23	159	Winnebago	(17)
Yellow–headed Blackbird	10	108	Lake	(40)
Rusty Blackbird	2	9	Champaign	(8)
Brewer's Blackbird	3	8	Lake	(6)
Common Grackle	100	34629	Cook	(1710)
Brown–headed Cowbird	100	9055	Lake	(536)
Orchard Oriole	76	432	Union	(51)
Baltimore Oriole	96	3973	Du Page	(288)
Purple Finch	38	200	Livingston	(24)
House Finch	96	3891	Cook	(287)
Pine Siskin	23	88	Stephenson	(18)
American Goldfinch	98	13599	Du Page	(808)
Evening Grosbeak	1	2	McDonough	(2)
House Sparrow	100	22997	Cook	(2609)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	25#	466	McDonough	(57)
{Ringed Turtle–Dove	1	83	Will	(83)}
{Monk Parakeet	2	42	Cook	(40)}

TABLE 2 — County Statistics

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number Birds	Number Obs.	Number Ptys	TIME Start – End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Adams	3	137	8,702	18	7	*0515 – 2230	16/412	30/37	Al Dierkes
Alexander	1	139	5,169	8	3	*0510 – 1800	0/167	0/23	Ida Domazlicky
Bond	2	80	2,838	3	1	0600 – 2025	4/154	8/6	Charley Marbut
Boone	4	106	7,354	28	6	0530 – 2030	79/317	76/32	Arlene Brei
Brown	3	139	2,230	2	1	*0430 – 1830	4/175	8/5	Mike Ward
Bureau	4	56	552	1	1	0730 – 1230	1/51	1/4	Steven Shipp
Calhoun	2	126	6,384	9	6	*0500 – 2230*	8/260	10/34	Liz Hansen
Carroll	4	136	7,987	7	3	*0300 – 1830	13/281	15/16	Jeff Baughman
Cass	3	98	3,679	3	1	*0425 – 1600	1/145	1/9	Robert Randall
Champaign	3	163	9,579	33	18	*0230 – 2030	66/279	78/20	Elizabeth Chato
Christian	2	123	3,795	10	6	*0300 – 1930	26/241	24/19	Clark Olson
Clark	2	54	1,342	4	3	0715 – 1630	3/359	2/14	Donna Clem
Clinton	2	147	5,042	7	4	*0200 – 2025	25/500	26/28	Dan Kassebaum
Coles	2	121	2,850	15	6	0530 – 2115*	27/44	35/5	Tyler Funk
Cook	4	180	44,248	105	43	*0430 – 2045	191/389	242/42	Duane Heaton
Crawford	2	112	7,347	21	9	0515 – 2100*	16/452	19/48	Patricia Neighbors
Cumberland	2	121	3,970	12	8	*0420 – 2300*	16/200	38/21	Larry Thorsen
De Kalb	4	118	5,485	11	6	*0445 – 2100*	31/282	37/11	Darrell Shambaugh
De Witt	3	89	1,214	6	4	0530 – 2145*	5/85	18/	L. Miller–Ishmael
Douglas	2	105	2,587	7	3	*0400 – 2020	8/160	11/15	Ted Funk
Du Page	4	152	23,754	89	28	*0500 – 2100*	158/262	221/24	Bob Fisher
Edgar	2	102	6,855	32	12	0530 – 2030	24/420	23/52	Mary Ida Riedell
Edwards	1	89	5,045	8	6	0530 – 2020	5/180	7/26	Elaine Michels
Effingham	2	94	3,221	5	3	*0500 – 2100*	13/150	15/12	Mary Ann Hoeffliger
Fayette	2	84	967	7	4	0525 – 1700	15/43	24/3	A.W. Jones
Ford	3	51	1,033	4	2	0530 – 1935	6/28	15/3	Larry David
Franklin	1	95	1,705	2	1	*0350 – 1955	4/152	38/6	Leonard Stanley
Fulton	3	119	5,097	17	6	*0515 – 2300*	18/376	20/30	Helen Gasdorf
Gallatin	1	107	941	1	1	*0315 – 2100	*5/78	8/7	Ron Bradley
Greene	2	105	1,037	4	1	*0515 – 1515	6/36	5/4	Helen Wuestenfeld
Grundy	4	82	1,832	11	5	0530 – 1900	19/144	12/12	Robert Crane
Hamilton	1	105	3,414	9	7	*0300 – 2120*	10/186	13/27	Hazel Clark
Hancock	3	114	6,663	13	7	*0500 – 2400*	16/322	15/57	Phillip Tuttle
Hardin	1	79	400	2	1	0630 – 1900	1/77	2/8	Elizabeth Raikes
Henderson	3	112	2,197	8	6	*0440 – 1725	11/121	21/8	Chuck Leib
Henry	4	80	1,247	1	1	*0345 – 1745	6/138	8/4	Randy Nyboer
Iroquois	3	107	3,461	17	8	*0515 – 2130*	16/105	27/11	Robert Dannehl
Jackson	1	143	6,423	8	5	*0400 – 2045*	12/387	15/34	Paul Biggers
Jasper	2	121	2,620	6	2	0530 – 1500	8/164	6/8	Scott Simpson
Jefferson	1	85	1,065	5	1	0700 – 1700	2/63	5/5	Florence Glass
Jersey	2	123	3,247	17	3	*0400 – 2130*	3/71	5/10	Gilbert Ives
Jo Daviess	4	118	10,801	24	7	*0500 – 2010	23/550	25/57	Grace Storch
Johnson	1	110	1,630	6	2	*0430 – 1800	2/128	5/9	Ray Boehmer
Kane	4	134	13,436	46	19	*0430 – 2000	85/384	150/25	Robert Montgomery
Kankakee	4	116	3,154	16	6	0615 – 2000	21/123	31/8	Etta Aubertin
Kendall	4	80	4,106	15	5	0545 – 1800	13/209	20/15	Maryann Gossman
Knox	3	143	6,691	16	10	*0100 – 2030	29/513	41/47	Phil Reyburn
Lake	4	172	22,352	68	27	*0100 – 2200*	102/507	127/56	Danny Diaz
La Salle	4	161	14,931	31	12	*0400 – 2130*	72/795	71/61	John McKee
Lawrence	2	86	1,059	2	1	0700 – 1830	6/111	7/4	James Garner
)Tddddy?dddy	4	116	3,469	10	6	0520 – 2030	12/199	25/23	John Bivins
Livingston	3	91	3,113	29	8	0530 – 1700	18/10	25/80	Joe Jobst
Logan	3	93	3,960	15	7	0530 – 1945	10/372	14/34	Margaret Lanterman

TABLE 2 — County Statistics, *continued*

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number of Birds	Number Obs.	Number Ptys	TIME Start – End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Macon	3	141	6,657	12	9	0530 – 2300*	31/351	43/17	Myrna Deaton
Macoupin	2	106	2,191	5	3	*0415 – 1700	8/239	9/13	Michael Sweet
Madison	2	143	5,436	18	7	*0400 – 1700	21/276	35/18	John McCall
Marion	2	55	795	10	2	0700 – 2115*	2/45	4/13	Joseph Merkelbach
Marshall	3	55	1,477	2	1	*0515 – 2015	3/175	3/11	Mary Hill
Mason	3	138	6,332	13	5	*0415 – 2015	30/209	36/18	Richard Bjorklund
Massac	1	160	5,114	4	3	*0200 – 1930	23/251	30/15	Frank Bennett
McDonough	3	126	11,782	65	36	0525 – 2330*	84/425	124/63	Ed & Evelyn Franks
McHenry	4	139	13,630	52	20	*0415 – 2030	66/588	73/52	David Frey
McLean	3	140	4,901	11	5	0600 – 1900	22/140	26/14	Dale Birkenholz
Menard	3	103	1,765	3	3	0540 – 1800	10/109	12/8	Kenneth Lockart
Mercer	4	85	844	1	1	*0355 – 2005	3/111	4/11	Bill Bertrand
Monroe	1	129	2,746	9	4	0535 – 1700	14/224	19/9	Todd Wiley
Montgomery	2	81	1,336	4	4	0600 – 2015	9/130	21/9	Mark Phipps
Morgan	2	128	3,382	5	2	0600 – 1800	7/186	2/10	Peggy Leverlett
Moultrie	2	99	2,372	4	2	0530 – 1700	10/167	17/4	Robert Cottingham
Ogle	4	105	3,879	15	11	0600 – 2000	30/454	31/30	Mark Swan
Peoria	3	113	6,183	5	3	0530 – 1800	13/277	15/15	Mike Miller
Perry	1	107	1,102	3	3	0525 – 2025	10/40	10/6	Joey Vancil
Piatt	3	104	3,215	19	12	0520 – 2020	23/109	27/14	Beth Beauchamp
Pike	2	140	8,945	33	11	*0425 – 2150*	22/568	31/69	Evelyn Hoover
Pope	1	124	2,790	17	9	0530 – 1915	14/225	33/26	Daniel Spivey
Pulaski	1	119	3,177	6	4	*0420 – 2130*	5/288	7/30	Bob Lindsay
Putnam	4	58	1,063	2	1	0525 – 1515	4/124	4/6	Michelle Simone
Randolph	1	138	5,202	12	7	*0300 – 2300*	20/249	27/21	Ann Sanders
Richland	2	139	6,845	15	9	0550 – 2000	25/359	39/38	Frank Storment
Rock Island	4	130	7,659	13	8	*0400 – 2030	19/484	21/46	Tim Murphy
St. Clair	1	154	7,367	15	6	*0200 – 2025	23/377	39/27	Richard Call
Saline	1	113	1,300	5	3	0530 – 2010	2/116	9/9	Kathy Phelps
Sangamon	2	122	2,127	2	1	*0330 – 2000	14/100	10/4	David Bohlen
Schuyler	3	76	2,761	46	9	0630 – 1800	11/54	19/15	Harold Hedden
Scott	2	110	2,236	8	2	*0500 – 1615	8/124	8/12	Steve Tavender
Shelby	2	132	2,107	6	3	0530 – 2200*	16/226	17/12	Karen Forcum
Stark	3	36	438	1	1	0630 – 1800	5/13	2/7	Bobbie Whittle
Stephenson	4	89	3,143	27	4	0700 – 1400	23/201	24/10	George Visel
Union	1	170	14,701	14	9	*0000 – 2100*	35/672	49/57	Vernon Kleen
Vermilion	3	144	7,866	16	10	*0515 – 2015	34/155	52/21	Marilyn Campbell
Wabash	1	82	1,069	9	5	0610 – 2030	7/87	17/11	Gary Adams
Warren	3	77	1,618	13	11	0630 – 1930	12/111	19/14	Lynn Schoonover
Washington	1	106	1,300	11	10	0600 – 2300*	8/51	15/4	Martin Kemper
Wayne	1	52	305	1	1	*0310 – 1910	4/180	4/7	George Rose
White	1	96	1,204	9	4	0520 – 1920	8/95	16/6	Doris Williams
Whiteside	4	105	2,562	7	4	0530 – 1900	12/312	10/22	Carol Jackley
Will	4	169	18,787	45	23	*0400 – 2030	78/695	102/64	Jim Kelly
Williamson	1	135	3,286	10	4	*0430 – 17001	3/262	17/27	Tracy Evans
Winnebago	4	151	15,155	32	16	*0430 – 2030	119/648	128/40	Jack Armstrong
Woodford	3	102	4,006	6	3	0530 – 1830	10/165	14/14	Brenda Onken

Wetland Bird Research in Northeastern Illinois

by Michael P. Ward

The wetlands are being drained and altered across North America at an alarming rate. In Illinois alone, approximately 90% of the native wetlands have been lost (Suloway 1991).Given the magnitude of these losses, it is not surprising that many of our wetland–dependent birds appear to be in trouble. Today, wetland birds comprise half of the 42 bird species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois (Herkert 1992, 1995).

The state's largest remaining concentration of wetland species and emergent wetland (marshes) on which they depend, can be found in the five–county region (Lake, Cook, Kane, McHenry, and DuPage) of northeastern Illinois (Table 1). This region is undergoing rapid growth and development, and wetland loss continues. Further declines in wetland bird populations are likely unless greater efforts are taken to preserve the wetlands on which these birds depend.

Adult male Yellow–headed Blackbird at the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project in Wadsworth, Lake County, one of the sites being studied by Michael P. Ward. Photo by Vic Berardi.

Unfortunately, efforts to preserve wetland bird populations are hampered by a lack of basic information on these species — abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements. One of the reasons is that most wetland birds are secretive, which makes detection and observation difficult. The logistical challenges of working in wetlands also makes studying these bird species difficult. Essential data such as reproductive success, which can provide an excellent measure of the health (viability) of a population, are difficult to collect in dense wetland habitats. We need better information on the habitat requirements of wetland birds if we are to prevent further declines in their populations.

The first step is to determine what habitat conditions attract birds to a particular marsh, but that alone is not enough. Scientists have found that many bird species of Illinois forests and grasslands are not producing enough young to replace the individuals lost every year to natural mortality. In some cases, populations of Illinois birds are only maintained by influxes of birds that were raised in adjoining states (Robinson et al 1995). For this reason, it is essential to determine not just the habitat conditions that attract birds, but also what is required for birds to breed successfully. Determining whether birds are breeding successfully helps predict whether a population will persist in an area, and understanding the factors that affect reproductive success can help identify the critical needs of the species and identify conservation priorities.

In the case of wetlands, some of the habitat characteristics that may affect bird abundance and reproductive success include a wetland's size and vegetative composition as well as the number and type of other wetlands nearby. The way land surrounding a wetland is used (i.e., agricultural versus a housing development) may also be an important factor.

Wetland Bird Research in Illinois

Several scientists are researching wetland birds in northeastern Illinois to gain the knowledge needed to conserve them. Here I will focus on two such projects, one a detailed study of a single species, the other a study of an entire wetland bird community.

Dr. Charles Paine, of the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, has been conducting research on wetland bird populations in northeastern Illinois since 1995. The initial phase of his research was designed to develop methods to measure abundance and nesting productivity of marsh birds, and to provide preliminary information on the status of wetland bird populations in northeast Illinois. Over the past four years, Paine has developed methods of measuring bird abundance using playbacks of tape-recorded wetland bird calls and of locating and monitoring nests of an array of species. Results from the first phase of the study suggest that northeast Illinois wetland birds have high reproductive success compared with bird species nesting in other Illinois habitats (Table 2).

Initially, Paine focused on a relatively small number of high–quality wetlands. His preliminary findings suggest that wetland birds are reproducing well in good habitat, but the findings provide little information on the status of populations across the region. Nor do they tell us why populations appear to be declining. To overcome these shortcomings, Paine initiated a new study in 1998 in cooperation with Nathan Striker who is working on a Ph.D. at Ohio State University. They are measuring wetland bird abundance on 90 northeastern Illinois wetlands, and determining nesting productivity of eight wetland species on a subset of about 25 wetlands. The study design will allow them to test the effects of within–wetland habitat characteristics, wetland size, and wetland isolation on bird abundance and productivity. Because their study sites were randomly selected from an inventory of all wetlands in the region, they will be able to extrapolate beyond their sample of wetlands, and estimate the status of wetland birds across the region. Paine and Stricker are using a relatively new technology called a Geography Information System (GIS). The system uses remotely sensed geographic information usually gathered from satellites to create maps of specific features. This information allows for the analyses of many different features such as drainage, the extent of surrounding development, vegetation, wetland size, the number and size of nearby wetlands, and other components. This quantification enables the scientists to make certain correlations between habitat characteristics and bird abundance and reproductive success.

Some important long–standing questions remain to be answered by Paine and Striker's work: Which is better for the reproduction success of wetland bird species: one large wetland or several small ones? How large does a wetland need to be to provide good reproductive success?

Other questions concerning wetland bird conservation are less easily answered by the kind of study conducted by Paine and Stricker. Marshes are dynamic systems that change drastically with changes in water conditions. A marsh that is productive for wetland birds in a wet year may be unproductive in a dry year, while a deep marsh that provides only marginal habitat for wetland birds in a normal year may be the only remaining refuge in a drought. Marsh birds have adapted to chang-

Table 1.
Wetland Species whose breeding population in Illinois is primarily confined to the northeastern part of the state.

SPECIES	STATE STATUS
Pied–billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)*	T
Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)*	E
American Bittern (*Botayrys kentiginosus*)	E
King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)^	T
Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)	S
Sora (*Porzana carolina*)	S
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)*	T
American Coot (*Fulica americana*)	N
Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)	E
Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)^	S
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)	E
Forster's Tern (*Sterna fosteri*)	E
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)	E
Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*)+	N
Yellow–headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)	E

* Populations occur in other parts of the state but not at the density of the northeastern part of the state.
^ Most recent breeding is at Goose Lake Prairie, which could be considered the periphery of northeastern Illinois
\+ Species common in appropriate habitat across the northern part of the state.
T = threatened
E = Endangered
S = Species of concern/Watch list
N = No state protection

Table 2

Percent of nests (of representative species) that produce at least one offspring.

Forest	Grassland	Shrubland	Wetland
32%	20%	25%	68%

- Forest, grassland, and shrubland values attained from S. K. Robinson et. al, Habitat Selection by Brown–Headed Cowbirds in Fragments Midwestern Landscapes.
- Wetland values attained from C. R. Paine, Abundance and Nesting Productivity of Wetland–Dependent Birds in Northeastern Illinois.
- Table calculated by using percent daily predation rates from Robinson et. al and Mayfield nest success from Paine.
- The reasons for so few successful nests in some of these ecosystems include predation by raccoons, skunks, mice, and other birds; abandoned nests due to Brown–headed Cowbird parasitism or disturbance; or the loss of an adult bird.

ing marsh condition by moving from marsh to marsh as conditions change between years. This was fine when much of the state was covered by wetlands. When shallow marshes dried during a drought, there was usually a deeper marsh nearby that provided suitable breeding habitat. However, as more and more marshes are drained, fewer alternatives exist for birds, particularly during drought periods. We need to understand not only what birds need now, but also what they need to get them through droughts. Paine and Stricker's work provides only an indirect measure of this need. A more direct measure can be obtained by examining between and within year movements of birds among marshes in the region.

Single Species Studies

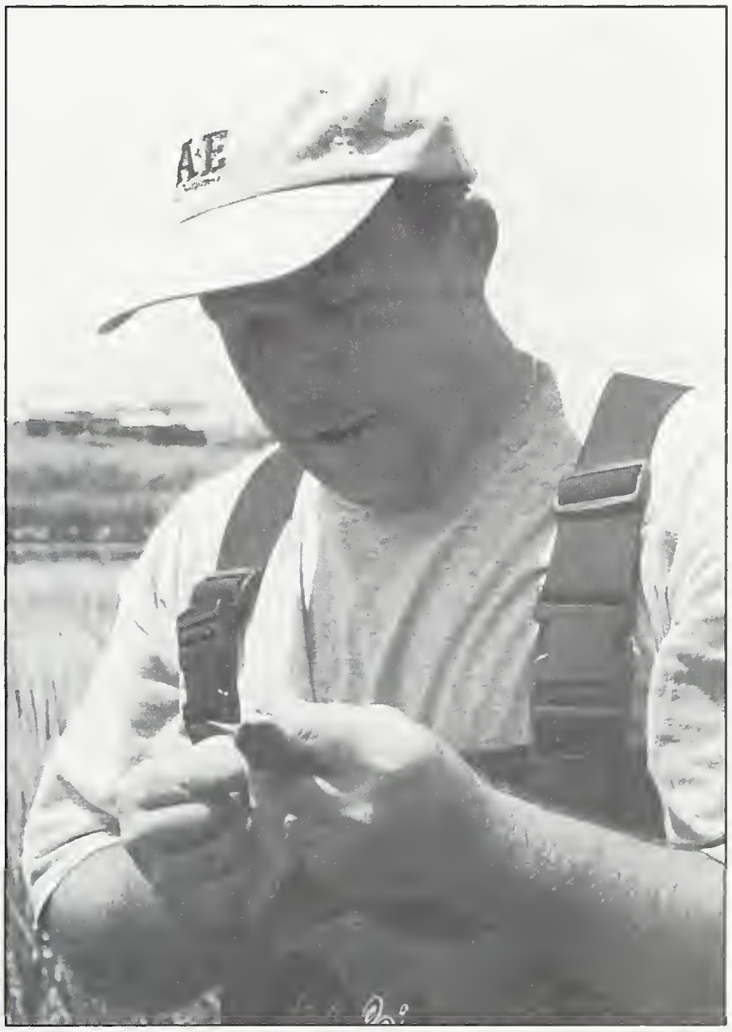
Dr. Dave Enstrom of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Dr. Jim Herkert of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and I are working on a single–species study of wetland bird movements in northeastern Illinois. We selected Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) as our study species because, unlike many other wetland species, this one is obvious when present, and the nests are easy to locate and monitor. We are also able to capture and mark birds with colored leg bands, allowing us to identify individuals from a distance without recapturing them. We banded 132 individual Yellow–headed Blackbirds during the spring and summer of 1998.

Identification of individual birds enables the study of dispersal and fidelity. We can learn whether Yellow-headed Blackbirds can leave a site and reproduce successfully at another site within the same breeding season. We will also learn to what degree Yellow–headed Blackbirds return to the same wetlands and to the same area (northeastern Illinois) annually. By locating all of the colonies of Yellow–headed Blackbirds in Illinois (17) we can learn to what extent birds that bred or were born in Illinois one year return the next year.

With help from volunteers reporting color band sequences, we have already begun to learn how the population of Yellow–headed Blackbirds in Illinois is dispersing. All of this information will allow us to learn how Yellow–headed Blackbirds respond to changing local and regional marsh conditions, to determine their dispersal abilities, and ultimately predict the amount and distribution of habitat needed to ensure their existence in Illinois.

Our initial data concur with Paine's initial data. The Yellow–headed Blackbirds we studied in northeastern Illinois had a relatively high reproductive success. Further investigation will uncover what factors are affecting the species' population decline in Illinois.

A possible reason for the decline is habitat loss. Yellow–headed Blackbirds will not establish territories



Michael P. Ward bands a Yellow–headed Blackbird in Lake County. Photo by Sheryl De Vore.

or nest if the habitat does not meet their specific requirements, which involve water depth, vegetative cover, and other factors. Whether the habitat they need is compatible with that needed by other wetland bird species could be answered by combining our data and Paine's.

These two mutually beneficial studies allow for a different view of the same system. The detailed account of one species and the overall insight into the community will allow for the rare perspective of an imperiled system at two different levels. The studies also will be producing crucial information needed to develop biologically sound conservation and development plans in north eastern Illinois and throughout the Midwest.

Acknowledgments

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BIRD FINDING GUIDE - Lake Mermet

Birding Lake Mermet Conservation Area

by Kathy Phelps

Trips to Mermet Lake Conservation Area in southern Illinois can either whet the appetite or satisfy the hunger of any birder. Indeed, it has done that for me as I visit Mermet Lake and record my observations during spring and fall migration and into summer.

Mermet Lake, an old cypress swamp developed into a waterfowl refuge in 1962, is on U.S. 45 midway between Vienna and Metropolis in southern Illinois. The lake serves as a reservoir and water supply to temporarily flood duck–hunting areas; the water is returned to the lake after the season closes.

I begin my trips here shortly after sunrise. What follows are some of my observations for 1996 and 1997, which I hope will inspire you to bird Mermet Lake.

March 12, 1996. I stop just after sunrise at the first pull–off parking pad to start my first trip of the year. A Great Blue Heron flies across the lake. Red–winged Blackbirds sing "ok–a–lee" from cattail perches. Sunlight eases over the chill that dipped to freezing. Canada Geese honk, and a Northern Cardinal repeats his "cheer, cheer, birdy-birdy-birdy" song.

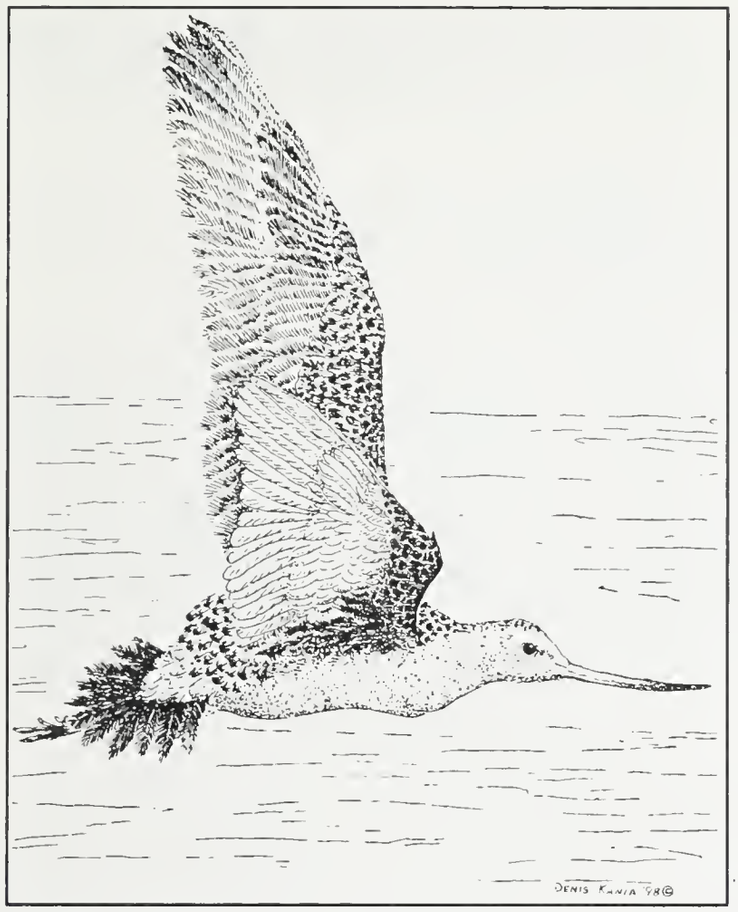
I begin my driving loop of the lake. A Blue Jay squawks when I stop at the next pull–off. An Eastern Phoebe hawks insects from stubble only inches above the water, its breast looking quite yellow in the early sun.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker gives "kwirr" calls, and a Great-horned Owl hoots once. Common Grackles chatter. White on the head of a Bufflehead marks its location before it dives. A Pied–billed Grebe leaves a wake as it swims. Seven Canvasbacks swim and dive with three Lesser Scaups and two Ruddy Ducks.

A Killdeer's "kil–deeah" floats across the lake. Five Ring-billed Gulls fly along the opposite side of the lake, and a male Wood Duck swims toward the marsh.

The road goes between wet woods and a stretch of mown grass and food plots. A Song Sparrow sings from the highest perch of a brush pile. Two Common Snipes wade along the edge of a puddle as they probe for their breakfast. American Robins feed in the grass.

Bird songs fill the morning, a welcome change from the winter quiet. When I walk to the point beside the first boat landing, I disturb Song and Swamp Sparrows. A Mourning Dove coos. Yesterday's temperatures in the mid 50s didn't melt the ruffled skirts of ice on the north side of the cypress trees. Their reflections on the



Drawing of Hudsonian Godwit, one of the birds that have been seen at Mermet Lake, by Denis Kania.

still water make them look like gaping mouths. A V–formation of seven Double-crested Cormorants passes overhead.

I don't drive far on the road before a junco flies to a tree. A Tufted Titmouse scolds me when I pull down the lane to the lake. A Golden–crowned Kinglet feeds with two Carolina Chickadees.

Where the road enters the woods, a Winter Wren gives a faint rattling call, and a Carolina Wren shouts his "tea-kettles." A Yellow–rumped Warbler flashes its butter–colored rear as it forages among the treetops.

Over 75 American Coots scatter when I park in the second boat landing and picnic grounds, still on the east side of the lake. A Fish Crow calls its nasal "caw." Ruddy Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, more grebes, and scaups swim in view.

Mallards and Green–winged Teal dabble in a borrow pit at the southeast corner of the lake. A male Eastern Bluebird perches on top of a young tree. Hundreds of coots mill around at the end of the lake where the road turns at the Nature Preserve. A Red-headed Woodpecker flies over, displaying its black and white pattern.

Early May 1996. Copper irises (*Iris fulva*) bloom around the "puddle" in the corner beside the preserve's parking area. A Pileated Woodpecker flies across the lake. I stop when I see a Great Blue Heron wrestling an eel. It shakes its catch back and forth, the eel wrapping around the heron's bill. The heron drops the eel, retrieves it, carries it to a mound of dirt, and stabs it. I miss the swallowing when I pull over to let another car pass.

No herons wade along the dikes extending back into the duck–hunting areas on the west side of the lake (I call the second one "Heron Lane" because I often see several herons and egrets there). A male Red–breasted Merganser swims among a loose raft of scaup near the third boat landing in the northwest corner of the lake. An Eastern Towhee gives one "wheet." A Belted Kingfisher perches at the top of a snag.

One last stop on a pull-off yields six Ring–necked Ducks, a Goldeneye, and a Redhead. Three Tree Swallows swoop after insects, and western chorus frogs add their "preeet" calls to the singing morning.

March 8, 1997. As I begin my year of birding at Mermet Lake, clouds and a determined north wind kept the temperatures hovering at freezing.

Along the east side of the lake I watch an American Kestrel hovering, a Hairy Woodpecker chipping away on the remains of a trunk, and a flock of White-throated Sparrows feeding. I hear a White–breasted Nuthatch, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, and Barred Owl.

The dikes back into the hunting areas were flooded. Four American Widgeons finally decide to land. An American Goldfinch gives "su-wee" calls as it flies, and a Turkey Vulture soars.

April 5, 1997. Northern Rough–winged Swallows join the growing number of Tree Swallows. A Barn Swallow claims a perch low to the water and vigorously defends it. New cattail leaves grow among the dead ones. A Red–tailed Hawk flies from a tree, and Field Sparrows sing.

A Brown Thrasher flies to branch above the brambles and watches two fishermen pull their boat from the water. Three Great Egrets feed in the soupy duckweed, and Blue–winged Teal dabble in the deeper sections. A Blue–gray Gnatcatcher gives "beeez" calls from a willow tree. I watch a muskrat and look up at just the right time to see an adult Bald Eagle fly around the edge of the lake, land in a snag, and eat a fish.

Three Bonaparte's Gulls split and fly in different directions. A Green Heron flies in the woods.

May 3, 1997. Baby Wood Ducks follow the hen into the cattails as I begin my birding loop. An Osprey circles the lake. A Least Bittern gives deep laugh–sounding calls. This species nests here every summer unless high water hampers the cattail growth. According to fellow birder Judy DeNeal, this is the spot to hear rails at night in early May.

A Yellow Warbler sings at practically each stop I make. I add Prothonotary Warbler, Warbling Vireo,

Common Yellowthroat, Parula Warbler, Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, and Palm Warbler to my list.

Soras call from the marsh, and one flies from the edge of the road to a broken limb just above water in the ditch. In the past I've watched Green Herons foraging for food from this limb, and Judy has seen Least Bitterns here.

A Vesper's Sparrow stays in the shrubs by the first boat launch on the east side of the lake. When I stop in the woods, I hear a Wood Thrush, Great Crested Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Yellow–throated Vireo, Summer Tanager, and Black–and–white Warbler.

I pull in at the picnic area for lunch just in time to hear an American Bittern's "o–ka–chunk" calls. I finally get a close-enough look to identify two Forster's Terns. Two Spotted Sandpipers feed among rocks on the levee, and a Solitary Sandpiper wades in the muck along the edge of the flooded woods while Common Mergansers nap.

Then comes the highlight of my year: I pull off across from cattails near the main gate and hear "kiki-bur" from the cattails. A Black Rail! One of the rarest wetland birds in Illinois!

June 29, 1997. On a fishing trip with my family, I add Cedar Waxwing, Yellow–breasted Chat, Prairie Warbler, Brown–headed Cowbird, Eastern Wood–Pewee, and Yellow–billed Cuckoo.

September 4. 1997. American Lotus flowers dot white above the layer of leaves. Smartweeds and swamp milkweeds bloom while Acadian Flycatchers call at each stop. A Red–eyed Vireo sings its abrupt phrases. The water level is low from the usual summer drought. Heron Lane is dry and filled with smartweed. I had hoped for mudflats, shorebirds and more migrants; instead I listen to the fiddling insects while watching cloudless sulphur, red spotted purple, monarch, tiger swallowtail, and common sulphur butterflies. This trip brings my total to 103 species for 1997.

Tips for Birding Mermet Lake

A five-mile, one–way levee road circles the 452-acre Mermet Lake where anglers fish for largemouth bass, channel catfish, and panfish. The Conservation Area stays open 24 hours. An extensive cattail/lotus marsh grows along the levee's east side. The woods opposite the lake in the northeast corner, where the road starts, is a good spot for migrating warblers. The road from here angles away from the water and passes a marsh, woods, wildlife food plots and prairie restorations. At one point, the road dissects a woods.

Woods grow on both sides of the first boat launch. Farther along, a lane leads through inundated woods to the water. The next boat launch has picnic grounds and a pit latrine. No running water is available at the lake.

From the south corner of the lake, the road runs along the top of the levee, giving a broad view across the lake on one side and into the 43–acre Mermet Swamp Nature Preserve, and the duck–hunting areas on the other.

A half–mile trail loops through the preserve, with signs identifying trees and a boardwalk making a detour into the swamp. Herons, egrets, and shorebirds frequent the three dikes branching off the levee. Graveled pull–off parking pads occur at regular intervals where the road borders the lake.

Some rare birds have been seen here. Site superintendent, Chris McGinness, said a Golden Eagle visited in the winter of 1995/96, and that a pair of Bald Eagles has nested nearby at Round Pond. Bald Eagles come periodically for a few days at a time. Twenty–six Ospreys stopped at the lake at the same time in 1995. Hudsonian Godwit, American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, and Common Gallinule have also been seen. In the past, the cattail marsh near the south end of the lake has been the only known nesting site for the Purple Gallinule in Illinois. Two Purple Gallinules were seen in 1997 and a pair successfully raised young in 1998 (see a future issue of *Meadowlark* for details.).

Mermet is becoming a popular place to bird. Between 30 and 50 birders come each week to search for water and land birds here. Note that the lake is closed to the public from two weeks prior to waterfowl season (not goose) until the end of December; the dates vary yearly. Birders and nature photographers may obtain permission to walk in after 1 p.m. daily when the hunters quit for the day.

For the birder traveling south to reach Mermet Lake Conservation Area, take I-57 to I-24 and then exit on U.S. 45 just north of Vienna. Follow U.S. 45 south for approximately 11 miles to the small community of Mermet where a sign marks the entrance to the Mermet Lake Conservation Area.

Camping is available at Fort Massac State Park near Metropolis. You can also find a Best Inn, Comfort Inn, Players Motel, and a Days Inn in the town of Metropolis as well as a Ramada Inn in Vienna and a Best Western in Ulin.

—Kathy Phelps
1385 Highway 145 S.
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Lake County's First Cinnamon Teal
and other Northern Illinois Records for Spring 1998

On 3 April 1998, I was birding Lake County's glacial lakes performing my annual spring ritual of counting as many Common Loons as I could in one day. I had just finished on Gages Lake, when I decided to bird Drury Lane where there is a flooded field that is often good for shorebirds and puddle ducks. Drury Lane is a road in Avon Township in Lake County nearest to the t own of Round Lake Beach. After turning off Rollins Road, the field was nearly 1 mile from that T–intersection on the west side of the road.

When I pulled up to this flooded field (about 30 yards from the road), I immediately noticed a drake Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) right outside my car window! The bird was with 20 Blue-winged Teal (A. discors) and several Green-winged Teal (*A. creca*). Twenty-two Green-winged Teals were present in this field but most were on the back side of the pond.

The Cinnamon Teal stayed in soy and corn stubble in the water and was always with the Blue-winged Teal particularly along the muddy banks of the field. I noticed the cinnamon color throughout the bird's plumage. The head, face, nape, neck, throat, breast, belly, and flanks were all cinnamon with no trace of other darkish feathers; the back had some black feathers with what appeared to be some gold tertial or scapular feathers that were quite brilliant on the bird's back; the rump and undertail coverts were black. The bird had a conspicuous red iris. I looked for any trace of hybrid characters of a Blue-winged Teal and could find none (no gray in the face or trace of a crescent). When the bird flew later in the day I saw a light sky bluish wing patch on the secondary coverts.

I made field notes and rushed to call the Chicago Rare Bird Alert and others who might be able to get out late on a Friday afternoon. Only Scott Hickman was able to reach this spot, but as we set up our scopes late in the day, all the teals left apparently to roost at Fourth Lake to the north. I spotted the Cinnamon Teal as one of the four lead birds in the departing flock but Scott did not see the bird.

The next two days were spent looking for this teal by many Chicago area birders to no avail. A written description and documentation including a colored pencil sketch of this rarity have been accepted by the IORC. To my knowledge, this is Lake County's first record of this species.

Drake Cinnamon Teal (facing right in photograph), Mendota, IL, LaSalle Co. 24 April 1998. Photo by Al Seppi.

Other reports of Cinnamon Teals in Illinois in spring of 1998 include a male at Mendota in April, seen by many birders and photographed at the Del Monte Canning Plant in La Salle County. Another male Cinnamon Teal in DuPage County was noted by Dick Young and Joe Suchecki on the Spring Bird Count; an apparent hybrid was noted by H. David Bohlen on Lake Springfield, Sangamon County between 15 April and 3 May 1998; and another apparent hybrid was observed on 18 May 1998 at Clinton Lake in DeWitt County by Todd Dilley and Michael Retter. Bohlen (1989) list more than 20 records for the state and there have been additional records nearly every year since that publication.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, IN.

— David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Black–throated Grey Warbler at Evanston's Harbert Park, 5 May 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Black-throated Gray Warbler in Evanston:
Sixth State Record

On the afternoon of 4 May, 1998, I decided to check Evanston's Harbert Park for migrants. It didn't seem promising due to the lack of migrants elsewhere, but I had extra time so I decided to see what was there.

I parked at the south end and headed north through the woods along the North Shore Canal. Until I neared the north end of the woods, I had seen a grand total of zero birds. Finally, I began hearing a few Ruby–crowned Kinglets in the trees around me. While I was searching through the small kinglet flock, I heard what I thought was a Yellow–rumped Warbler chip note above me. When I looked up, however, I was shocked to see the very striking face pattern of a Black–throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)! With that bird in mind, I looked for the yellow super loral spot. Upon seeing that spot, I was convinced that I was watching the handsome western warbler.

This first spring male was seen by many observers through 8 May, and was also photographed. Unfortunately, it couldn't be found for the Spring Bird Count on 9 May despite very thorough searching. The warbler sometimes was difficult to locate, and it generally traveled within flocks of other species.

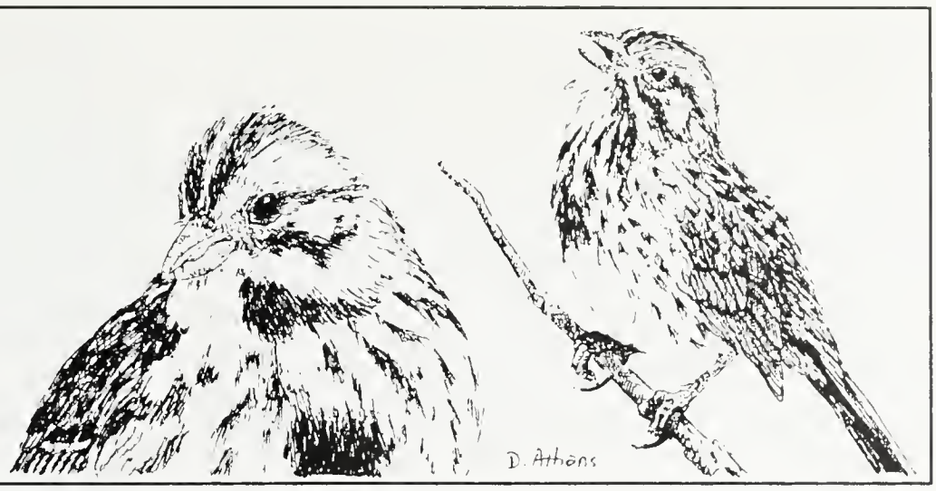
This bird represents the sixth state record (Bohlen 1989).Coincidentally, the last Black-throated Gray Warbler in Illinois (2–10 May 1984) was just a few miles farther south along the canal from Harbert Park.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. University of Indiana Press. Bloomington, IN.

— Josh Engel
2653 Broadway
Evanston, IL 60201

Field Notes



Song Sparrow drawing by David Athans.

The 1998 Spring Migration

By Paul R. Clyne

Birders lamented the poor spring 1998 migration, but some groups and selected species appeared in good to outstanding numbers. The May passage of flycatchers, thrushes, and vireos was poor, while most dabbling ducks fared quite well, shorebirds exhibited good diversity for spring, and sparrows appeared in healthy to astonishing numbers. The Illinois Spring Bird Count on 9 May netted some remarkable tallies even among species otherwise under–reported. Those figures —including a surprising number of record high counts—are included in the Spring Bird Count summary in this issue, but are omitted below unless submitted by individual contributors.

The preceding mild winter over interior North America accounted for the lack of migrations of the hardiest waterfowl, gulls, and northern raptors, and winter finches. The February passage of half–hardy migrants, however, was excellent, with notably early passages of Sandhill Cranes, Killdeer, American Robins, early sparrows, and blackbirds.

March temperatures generally averaged below normal for the first few weeks. The most severe winter storm of the decade in northeastern Illinois on 8 March, including the heaviest snowfall there since 1990, created a bottleneck that led to the phenomenal numbers of mostly routine migrants in the last half of the month.

April weather was pleasant for gardening, but not conducive to spurring birds out of the tropics. Southerly fronts were weak and short-lived. Many birders surmised that the meager movement of passerines by late April would result in spectacular passages in May, but this proved to be wishful thinking. The nice weather promoted early leafing of trees and shrubs, which only added to the difficulty of locating what few birds were present.

Most passerines, except for sparrows and selected species of warblers, appeared in barely adequate to disturbingly poor numbers. Thrushes as a group were abysmal; none of the vireos attained better than par, and few warblers reached normal numbers. The better high counts reported here for some species disguise the fact that day–to–day counts remained well below normal. Cool weather in the first week of May played some role, but on other dates weather conditions seemed appropriate for significant influxes without yielding the expected results.

Three theories exist for the unusual spring migration of 1998. Weather conditions may have allowed migrants to continue unhindered to their breeding grounds, resulting in reduced numbers of birds en route. El Niño may have deflected many passages eastward as well as delayed migrants. The spring droughts and devastating fires over much of Central America in late April and May may have substantially impacted the survival of neotropical migrants.

The first of these theories might account for some reduced bird populations on a local level, but cannot explain a statewide dearth of migrants. The El Niño theory may explain the abundance of White–crowned Sparrows in northeastern Illinois and the appearance of western vagrants such as five male Cinnamon Teals (including hybrids — see seasonal highlights) and two male Black-throated Gray Warblers (see seasonal highlights), but is otherwise difficult to evaluate from the Illinois data; for example, no Harris's Sparrows were reported. The Central American catastrophe theory best accounts for the high numbers among species that winter largely north of central Mexico, as well as the low numbers among those which winter or migrate heavily through the southern two–thirds of Central America.

Each theory has merit and we can only hope that the first two played a greater role than the third. The forthcoming breeding season summaries from North America should provide tangible evidence on the impact of the Central American wildfires on more northerly breeding bird populations.

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information on migration limits and populations as submitted directly to the compiler (or indirectly via the Illinois Department of Natural Resources) by field observers across the state. Reports communicated to local coordinators of taped bird–alerts, reports posted on e–mail, and reports transmitted by word of mouth to another observer are not included.

Migration limits and maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three subsections of Illinois—North, Central and South—as mapped out in Bohlen's (1978)

Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois. Additional data are sometimes noted for species and areas of special interest.

Publication of several documented records has been suspended, pending evaluation by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. Among these are Clark's Grebe, Harlequin Duck, extralimital Mississippi Kite, extralimital Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Black Rail, California Gull, extralimital Least Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Brewer's Sparrow, and Stonechat.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following observers, who supplied all the data for the summary. These observers are credited by their initials following each record. As in previous reports, the sequencing of observers below is based on alphabetization of initials or citation forms rather than on alphabetization of last names.

Cindy Alberico, Douglas Anderson, Jack Armstrong, Arlene Brei, David Bohlen, Dennis Beaver (DBe), Denis M. Bohm, Eric Bollinger, Frank Bennett, F. Keith Barker, Lester Barger, Michael Bowers, Margaret Baker (MBa), Paul Boeing, Richard Biss, Renée Baade (RBa), Robert Bezouska (RBe), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Ron Bradley (RBr), Susan Beaver (SBe), Sigurd Bjorklund (SBj), Todd Bugg, Elizabeth Chato, John Cole, Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Scott Carpenter, William Corning, Beckie Dyer, Glyn Dawson, Myrna Deaton, Sheryl DeVore, Todd Dilley, Tim J. Dever, Josh Engel, Carolyn Fields, Karen Fisher, Matt Fraker, Robert E. Fisher, Susan Friscia, Brian Herriott, Cathie Hutcheson, Frank Holmes, Jim Hampson, Jim T. Houlihan, Kay E. Hanson, L. Barrie Hunt, Mary Hennen, Robert Hughes, Roger Hayes (RHa), Scott Hickman, Tom Hamilton, David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Eric Kershner, Leon Katz, Vernon Kleen, Eric Latturner, Greg Lambeth, James Landing, Cynthia & John McKee (C&JMc), David Mandell, Igal Milchtaich, Joe Milosevich, Keith McMullen, Katherine Monday (KMo), Kelly McKay (KMy), Leslie Melim, Lynn McKeown (LMc), Robert Montgomery, Thomas U. May, Walter Marcisz, Clark Olson, John O?Brien, Adam Reyburn, Jennette Rader, Jean E. Reichardt, Michael Retter, Marjory A. Rand, Alan Stokie, Albert Seppi (ASe), Bob Severson, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Frederick Schwink, Joe Suchecki, Joan Schooley (JSc), Jeff Sundberg (JSu), James O. Smith, Leonard Stanley, Richard Sandburg, Scott Simpson, Todd Strole, Wes Serafin, Alice Topping, Craig Thayer, Craig Taylor (CTa), Ken Vail, Bernie Wiltshire, Dan Williams, David E. Willard, David Williams (DWm), Eric Walters, Jeff Walk, John Williams (JWm), Keith Walker, Ken Wysocki (KWy), Geoff Williamson, Mike Ward.

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

#		Arrival(s)	ad.	=	adult	FWA	=	Fish and Wildlife Area
MC	=	Maximum Count(s)	subad.	=	subadult	L	=	Lake
LD	=	Latest Departure(s)	imm.	=	immature	L&D	=	Lock & Dam
*	=	documented record	pr.	=	pair (male + female)	R	=	River
ph.	=	photographed	@	=	precedes county abbreviations	SP	=	State Park
m.ob.	=	many observers	FP	=	Forest Preserve			

AtwdRdg	=	Atwood Ridge (Union Co)	LRen	=	L Renwick, Plainfield (Will Co)
Bellrose Ref.	=	Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co)	LShel	=	L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co)
Carl.L	=	Carlyle L (Clinton Co unless otherwise noted)	M.View	=	Moraine View SP (McLean Co)
Carp.P	=	Carpenter Park, no. of Springfield (Sangamon Co)	Mermet L	=	Mermet L Conservation Area (Massac Co)
Chi	=	Chicago (Cook Co)	MidewinPr	=	Midewin Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co)
Clin.L	=	Clinton L (DeWitt Co)	MS	=	McGinnis Slough (Cook Co)
Colfax	=	Colfax area (McLean Co)	MsPal	=	Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co)
CONWR	=	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Williamson Co)	OakwdBtm	=	Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co)
			Palos	=	Palos area (Cook Co)
CypCrk	=	Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Pulaski Co)	Pomona	=	Pomona (Jackson Co)
DeerG	=	Deer Grove East FP, Palatine (Cook Co)	Pr.Rdg	=	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co) (formerly Prairie–Chicken Sanctuaries)
Evanston	=	Evanston (Cook Co)			
GLPSP	=	Goose L Prairie State Natural Area (Grundy Co)	Sav.Depot	=	Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co)
GrantP	=	Chicago's Grant Park (Cook Co)	SLSP	=	Sangchris L SP (Sangamon Co)
Heron Pond	=	Heron Pond National Park (Johnson Co)	Spfld	=	Springfield (Sangamon Co)
Heyworth	=	Heyworth Lagoons area (McLean Co)	SRSF	=	Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
HL	=	Horseshoe L SP (Madison Co)	SRSP	=	Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co)
Holten SP	=	Frank Holten SP (St. Clair Co)	Sta Fe Btm	=	Santa Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co)
JP	=	Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)	ThatcherWds	=	Thatcher Woods FP (Cook Co)
Kidd L	=	Kidd L Marsh (Monroe Co)	UCCA	=	Union Co Conservation Area (Union Co)
La Salle L	=	La Salle L (La Salle Co)	Urbana	=	Urbana (Champaign Co)
LCal	=	L Calumet area (Cook Co)	Wash.P	=	Washington Park, Spfld (Sangamon Co)
LChau	=	L Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)	Wauk	=	Waukegan (Lake Co)
Linc.Gdn	=	Lincoln Memorial Garden at L Spfld (Sangamon Co)	Wilmette	=	Wilmette (Cook Co)
Linc.P	=	Chicago's Lincoln Park (Cook Co)			

An innovation in this report is the use of county abbreviations, preceded by "@" in the body of the report. A complete listing of these abbreviations is included in the Fourth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (Meadowlark 7.2).

Transparent directionals such as ea. = east(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), so. = south(ern), etc., are used where relevant. When information on counts greater than one, on sexes, and/or on ages of birds observed is available, it is generally included in parentheses after the date of the record. Headings for species requiring IORC review, and species of extremely unusal occurrence in IL in spring, appear in CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, and **BOLDFACED** fonts. Extremely early/late dates and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined and boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**. Publication of some documented records has been withheld, pending IORC review.

1998 Spring Migration Field Notes

Common Loon
EA: **2 Feb** (locally wintering?), CONWR (KM); 19 Mar (2), Powderhorn L FP, LCal (DFS); 19 Mar (ad.), L Spfld (DB). MC: 20, Lake Co, 3 Apr (DJ); 8, Clin.L, 5 Apr (RC); 8, CONWR, 1 May (KM). LD: 4-6 Jun (imm.), JP (PC, KC); 30 May, near Meredosia (Morgan Co)(*CO, MB); 22 May, Mermet L (FB).

Pied-billed Grebe
EA: 13 Feb, L Charleston (Coles Co)(RBr)—earliest for county by four days; 22 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Feb, Barrington (Cook Co)(CF). MC: 52, Sangamon Co, 23 Mar (DB); 34, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); Whiteside Co, 18 Apr (EW) 9, JP, 6 Apr (PC, SC). LD: 24 May (2), Kidd L (DK); 18 May, ea. of Spfld (DB).

Pied–billed Grebe at Lock and Dam No. 13, Whiteside Co. 18 April 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Horned Grebe
EA: 15 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Feb (12), CONWR (KM); 7 Mar, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co)(DJS). MC: **81**, Sangamon Co, 29 Mar (DB); 32, Rend L (Franklin Co), 22 Mar (LS); 30, Clin.L, 28 Mar (RC); 14, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 24 Mar (DW). LD: 9 May, Brown Co (*MW); 9 May, M.View (MR, BW); 9 May, Cook Co (*GW); 6 May, so. Clinton Co (KM).

Red-necked Grebe
One report: 5-11 Apr (ad.), Clin.L (RC, MD).

Eared Grebe
EA: 11 Mar, LCal (DFS); 15 Mar (2), L Vermilion (Vermilion Co)(GL, RC); 15 Mar (3), Rend L (Franklin Co)(LS). MC: 3, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 9 May, (*JA). LD: **4 Jun**, JP (PC); 13-16 May, Arcola (Douglas Co)(GL, RC).

Western Grebe
One report: 9-10 May, Candlewick L, Boone Co (*AB, *MAR).

American White Pelican
EA: 5 Mar (75), Carl.L (Bond Co)(DK); 30-31 Mar (14), Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB); 4 Apr (10), we. Carroll Co (fide EW); 10 Apr (2), Barrington (Cook Co)(CF). MC: **1300**, Grassy L (Union Co), 1 Apr (KM); **750**, 20-mile stretch of Illinois R in La Salle, Bureau and Putnam Cos, 11 Apr (DJS)—**record high count for no. IL**; 640, Spring L (Tazewell Co), 4 Apr (R&SBj); 450, Adams Co, 26 Apr (KV); 300, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 10 Apr (DK); 120, HL, 10 Apr (FH); 62, LShel, 18 Apr (RC). LD: 23 May, Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK). Widespread in remarkable numbers.

Double-crested Cormorant
EA: 23 Feb (ad.), O'Brien L&D, LCal (DFS); 17 Mar, HL (KM); 18 Mar (8), M.View (MR). MC: 874, Riverdale quarry (Cook Co), 9 May (KWy); 600, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 6 May (KM); 481, LChau, 2 Apr (R&SBj).

American Bittern
EA: 5 Apr, Clin.L (RC); 6 Apr, Mermet L (FH); 28 Apr, Lake Co (SH). MC: 6, Pr.Rdg, 9 May (JW, SS). LD: 16 May, Chi (JL); 12 May (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 9 May, Carl.L (DK).

Least Bittern
EA: 7 Apr, CypCrk (KM). MC: 4, Mermet L, 9 May (FB). LD: **13 Jun**, Linc.P (EW, IM)—possibly latest migrant for IL. Few reports.

Great Blue Heron
EA: 24 Feb (5), Barrington (Cook Co)(CF). MC: 265, Clear L colony (Mason Co), 2 Apr (R&SBj); 96, Carl.L, 9 May (DK).

Great Egret
EA: 22 Mar (3), Holten SP (DK); 23 Mar, Chi (JL); 6 Apr, Hazel Dell inlet (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: 25, Jackson Co, 23 Apr (KM); 15, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 23 Apr (R&SBj). LD: 31 May (2), Airport Marsh (Sangamon Co)(DB); 25 May, JP (SC, PC). Numbers way down in Sangamon Co (DB).

Snowy Egret
EA: **29 Mar**, L Spfld (DB)—first Mar record for county; 4 Apr, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co)(DK); 19 Apr, O'Brien L&D (Cook Co)(KWy). MC: 17, HL, 13 May (KM); 3, LCal, 26 Apr (KWy, WM). LD: 21 May, Chi (JL); 16 May (2 ad.), ea. Pope Co (VK, m.ob.); 8 Apr, SLSP (DB).

Little Blue Heron
EA: 27 Mar, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co)(KM); 28 Mar (ad.), near Buffalo (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: 20, Holten SP, 29 May (KM). LD: 31 May (ad.), SLSP (DB); 28 May (ad.), JP (SC).

TRICOLORED HERON
Two records: 9 May, LRen (*JM); 18 May, Black Bottoms (Pope Co)(*FB)—first noted in Kentucky on 16 May (VK, m.ob.).

Cattle Egret
EA: 26 Mar (2), St. Clair Co (KM); 4-10 Apr (7), SRSP (C&JMc); 13 Apr (ad.), L Spfld (DB). MC: 43, Union Co, 30 Apr (KM); 27, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 13 May (C&JMc); 23, Holten SP, 9 Apr (DFS). LD: 31 May (6), ea. of Spfld (DB).

Green Heron
EA: 5 Apr, so. of Charleston (Coles Co)(KW); 5 Apr, Zeigler (Franklin Co)(LS); 7 Apr, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co)(SF). MC: 17, M.View, 9 May (MR, BW); 9, LCal, 9 May (WM); 7, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 16 May (1 migrating), JP (PC, SC); 12 May (2 migrating), Henline Creek (McLean Co)(MR).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 26 Mar (ad.), JP (GD, KC); 28 Mar (3), De Land (Piatt Co)(RC). MC: 712, LCal, 9 May (WM); 18, JP, 29 Apr (PC). LD: 31 May (2), Airport Marsh (Sangamon Co)(DB). Declining and hard to find in Sangamon Co (DB). No high counts reported outside Cook Co.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
EA: 29 Mar, Granite City (Madison Co)(FH); 29 Mar, OakwdBtm (DK); 15 May (ad.), JP (PC). MC: 11, OakwdBtm, 4 Apr (KM). LD: 28 May (2), LCal (WM). Few reports.

GLOSSY IBIS
One report: 29 May, Holten SP (*KM)—at same site as two unidentifed *Plegadis* ibises the preceding day.

WHITE-FACED IBIS
Two reports: 25 Apr - 5 May (2), Oakley (**Macon Co**)(MD, RS, *RC, GL)—**first county record**.

IBIS (Plegadis), sp.
Two records: 9 May, Waterfall Glen FP, Du Page Co (KF, *REF); 28 May (2), Holten SP (KM)—see Glossy Ibis entry.

Black Vulture
EA: 2 Feb (2), Union Co (KM). MC: 36, Heron Pond, 19 Apr (KM). No extralimital reports.

Turkey Vulture
EA: 2 Feb (3), Union Co (KM); 4 Feb, Pike Co (KV); 7 Mar (2), Palos (WS, CA). MC: 33, MsPal, 16 May—"likely a breeding population" (EW); 32, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 25, Sangamon Co, 2 Apr (DB). LD: 16 May, JP (PC).

Greater White-fronted Goose
EA: 12 Feb (18), Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: 118, LChau, 12 Mar (R&SBj); 100, Sangamon Co, 20 Mar & 23 Mar (DB); 53, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), 21 Feb (DW); 48, Heyworth, 15 Mar (TB); 8, Grassy L (Union Co), 1 Apr (KM). LD: 16 May, Mendota (La Salle Co)(DW); 7 Apr, CypCrk (KM); 1 Apr, SLSP (DB).

Snow Goose
EA: 29 Jan (increased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB); 15 Feb, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: 5000, Carl.L, 14 Mar (DK); 500, Sangamon Co, 2 Mar (DB); 150, Kidd L, 17 Mar (KM). LD: **23 May** (4, injured), Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK); 26 Apr (14), SLSP, but stragglers present into Jun (DB).

Ross's Goose
EA: 7 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 9 Mar, HL (FH). MC: 5, Sangamon Co, 2 Mar (DB); 2, La Salle L, 4 Apr (C&JMc). LD: 28 Mar (ad.), SLSP (DB).

Canada Goose
EA: 15 Feb (27 migrants), JP (PC). MC: 200, JP, 8 Mar (PC, SC); 105, Sangamon Co, 21 Mar (DB); 57, HL, 6 Mar (KM); 45, LChau, 12 Mar (R&SBj). LD: 27 Mar (8 migrants), JP (PC); 15 Mar (small race), Sangamon Co (DB). Most migrated from southern and central areas before 1 Mar (KM, DB); few data received.

Mute Swan
MC: 11, Wolf L, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 6, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 2 Apr (R&SBj); 5, Sangamon Co, 7 Apr (DB). Scattered reports of others as ones and twos 14 Feb - 21 May.

Wood Duck
EA: 2 Feb, OakwdBtm (KM); 15 Feb, Urbana (RC); 23 Feb (pr.), JP (PC). MC: 35, LChau, 26 Mar (R&SBj); 31, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 23, JP, 9 May (PC et al.).

Gadwall
EA: 13 Feb (35), LCal (DFS); 15 Feb (2), Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: **2000**, Carl.L, 10 Apr (DK); 1000+, Clin.L, 21 Mar (RC); 230, Sangamon Co, 28 Mar (DB). LD: 30 May (male), Arcola (Douglas Co)(RC); 27 May (male), Palatine (Cook Co)(CF); 13 May, HL (KM).

American Wigeon
EA: 29 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 2 Feb (4), Peabody Riverking State FWA (St. Clair Co)(KM); 13 Feb (6), LCal (DFS). MC: 500, Clin.L, 21 Mar (RC); 130, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (DB); 120, LChau, 19 Mar (R&SBj); 112, Union Co, 25 Mar (KM). LD: 31 May (female), Airport Marsh (Sangamon Co)(DB); 23 May (possibly injured), Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK); 25 Apr (3), CypCrk (KM).

American Black Duck
EA: 29 Jan (18), MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 100, La Salle L, 1 Mar (C&JMc); 100, Clin.L, 21 Mar (RC); 57, LChau, 5 Mar (R&SBj). LD: 11 May, I&M Canal, Utica (La Salle Co)(C&JMc); 6 Apr (2), ea. of Spfld (DB); 28 Mar, Carl.L (DK).

Mallard
MC: 5000, La Salle L, 1 Mar (C&JMc); 1234, LChau, 19 Mar (R&SBj); 750, Union Co, 25 Mar (KM); 400, Sangamon Co, 3 Mar (DB). Virtually no data on migration received.

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 1 Mar (male), SLSP (DB); 14 Mar (3), Carl.L (DK); 19 Mar, LCal (DFS). MC: **5000**, Carl.L, 10 Apr (DK); 600, Jackson Co, 18 Apr (KM); 300, CypCrk, 1 May (KM); 180, Sangamon Co, 12 Apr (DB); 150, Arcola, 29 Mar (Douglas Co)(RC); 125, Mendota (La Salle Co), 16 Apr (DW). LD: 7 Jun (female), JP (PC); 31 May, Monroe Co (FH); 30 May (2 males), Arcola (Douglas Co)(RC). See Cinnamon Teal for hybrids.

CINNAMON TEAL
Three reports, plus two hybirds—all males: 3 Apr, Round Lake, Drury Lane (Lake Co)(*DJ); 14-25 Apr, DelMonte plant ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co)(PB, *RM, DMB-ph., m.ob.); 9 May, Frontenac Marsh, Du Page Co (*JS). Hybrids **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal**: 15 Apr - 3 May, L Spfld and so. of Rochester (Sangamon Co)(*DB); 18 May, Clin.L (*MR, TD). See seasonal higlights for details and a photo.

One of 33 Turkey Vultures in flight at Mississippi Palisades State Park, Whiteside Co, 16 May 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Northern Shoveler
EA: 20 Feb (8), LCal (DFS); 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: **3000**, Carl.L, 10 Apr (DK); 2000, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 5 Apr (DK); 550, CypCrk, 7 Apr (KM); 330, La Salle L, 4 Apr (C&JMc); 200, Clin.L, 21 Mar (RC); 200, Arcola (Douglas Co), 29 Mar (RC); 190, Sangamon Co, 28 Mar (DB); 132, MS, 8 Apr (WS). LD: 26 May, Adams Co (KV);25 May (2), La Salle Co (DJS); 9 May (25), Clinton Co (KM).

Northern Pintail
EA: 24 Feb, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co)(DJS); 28 Feb (50), Pulaski Co (KM); 5 Mar, Adams Co (KV). MC: 300, Clin.L, 21

Mar (RC); 50, Pulaski Co, 28 Feb (KM); 20, La Salle L, 1 Mar (C&JMc). LD: 26 May, Adams Co (KV); 11 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co)(KM).

Green-winged Teal
EA: 1 Feb (increased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB); 2 Feb (20), UCCA (KM); 16 Feb (2), LRen (DFS). MC: 3000, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 5 Apr (DK); 3000, Carl.L, 10 Apr (DK); 700, Jackson Co, 1 Apr (KM); 200, Clin.L, 8 Mar (MR); 200, Pike Co, 23 Mar (KV). LD: 30 May (pair), Arcola (Douglas Co)(RC); 1 May (12), CypCrk (KM); 17 May (male), Glacial Park (McHenry Co)(RBa).

Canvasback
EA: 15 Feb (4), Evanston (JE). MC: 1906, LChau, 19 Mar (R&SBj); 58, HL, 16 Mar (KM); 40, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (DB); 15, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 7 Mar (DJS); 15, Loves Park (Winnebago Co), 24 Mar (DW). LD: **31 May**, Monroe Co (FH); 19 Apr, Mendota (La Salle Co)(DJS); 7 Apr (female), L Spfld (DB); 5 Apr (3), Carl.L (DK).

Redhead
EA: 1 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Feb, Barrington (Cook Co)(CF). MC: 659, LChau, 19 Mar (R&SBj); 400+, Clin.L, 24 Mar (RC); 162, HL, 6 Mar (KM); 80, Channahon (Will Co), 16 Mar (DFS). LD: 2 May (2), so. Clinton Co (KM); 19 Apr, Mendota (La Salle Co)(C&JMc); 6 Apr (5), ea. of Spfld (DB).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 29 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 27 Feb (33), LCal (DFS). MC: 2959, LChau, 19 Mar (R&SBj); 2000, Clin.L and vicinity, 21 Mar (RC); 700, HL, 6 Mar (KM); 345, Vermilion Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 230, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (DB); 156, Palos/Orland Park (Cook Co), 20 Mar (WS). LD: 26 May, Adams Co (KV); 9 May, Clinton Co (KM); 25 Apr, Riverdale (Cook Co)(KWy). Other: A resident female (present since Aug 1996) all season in vicinity of Evanston (EW).

Greater Scaup
EA: 1 Feb (23), Wilmette (1M). MC: 1950+ Scaup ("mainly Greater"), Mississippi R L&D #13 (Whiteside Co), 18 Apr (EW); 115+, Evanston, 25 Mar (EW); 15, Clin.L, 21 Mar (RC); 3, Sangamon Co, 15 Mar (DB); 3, Heyworth, 23 Mar (MF, TB). LD: 18 Apr (female), SLSP (DB).

Lesser Scaup
EA: 5 Jan (increased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB); 1 Feb (2 males), Wilmette (EW, 1M). MC: 8000+, Clin.L, 24 Mar (RC); 1747, LChau, 5 Mar (R&SBj); 1500, Carl.L, 5 Apr (DK); 1220, La Salle L, 4 Apr (C&JMc). LD: 31 May (4), La Salle L (C&JMc); 17 May (male), LCal (WM); 13 May (2), HL (KM); 9 May (female), SLSP (DB); 9 May, Adams Co (KV).

Surf Scoter
EA: 14 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 31 Mar (male), L Spfld (DB). MC: 3, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 14 Mar (DFS); 3, LCal, 17 Mar (DFS). LD: 17-22 May (1st spring female), Wauk (1M et al.); 9-11 May (male), La Salle L (C&JMc); 5-10 May (female), Mermet L (**Massac Co**)(FB); 7 May (female), SLSP (DB); 5 May (imm.), Decatur (Macon Co)(MD); 5 Apr (2), Carl.L (DK); 1 May (imm. male), Jasper Co (*EK, JTH).

White-winged Scoter
MC: 7, Wilmette, 22 Mar (JE). LD: 28-29 Mar (female), DelMonte plant ponds, Mendota (La Salle Co)(PB, C&JMc).

Black Scoter
MC: 2, Evanston, 22 Mar (1M, JE, m.ob.); 2, Evanston, 4 Apr (JE). LD: 7 May, GrantP (DFS); 24 Apr (ad. male), Evanston (1M, JE). No other reports.

Oldsquaw
LD: **1 May**, Newton L (Jasper Co)(*EK, JTH); 3 Apr, Wilmette (JE); 13-14 Mar, Chi (JL); 29 Mar (male), La Salle L (C&JMc). No other reports.

Bufflehead
EA: 7 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 12 Feb (23), JP (PC). MC: 75, Carl.L, 5 Apr (DK); 51, M.View, 18 Mar (MR); 47, Sangamon Co, 28 Mar (DB); 47, MS, 23 Apr (WS). LD: 8 May (female), M.View (MR); 8 May (2 females), JP (SC); 1 May, Newton L (Jasper Co)(EK, JTH).

Common Goldeneye
MC: 183, JP, 21 Feb (PC); 150, La Salle L, 15 Mar (C&JMc); 40, Sangamon Co, 5 Mar & 15 Mar (DB); 12, HL, 13 Feb (KM). None (!) at LChau this spring (R&SBj). LD: **23 May** (injured, unable to fly), Carl.L (DK); 16 Apr (7), Mendota (La Salle Co)(DW); 5 Apr (2), Carl.L (DK); 2 Apr, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co)(R&SBj). Hybrid **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser**: 14 Mar, Carl.L (DK).

Hooded Merganser
EA: 31 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 13 Feb, Powderhorn L FP, LCal (DFS). MC: 23, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (DB); 12, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 14 Mar (DJS); 7, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM). LD: 31 May (female), Heyworth (MF, TB); 24 May (male), JP (DFS). See Common Goldeneye for hybrid.

Common Merganser
MC: 503, LChau and Clear L (Mason Co), 12 Mar (R&SBj); 350, HL, 13 Feb (KM); 8, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar (DB). LD: **24 May** (female), SLSP (DB); 26 Apr (5), Heyworth (TB); 12 Apr, Riverdale (Cook Co)(KWy); 22 Mar, HL (FH). Few reports.

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: 28 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Feb (20), CONWR (KM). MC: 1200+, Wilmette, 28 Apr (JE); 1000, Clin.L, 28 Mar (RC); 885, LCal, 1 May (DFS); 776 (migrating), Evanston, 9 May (EW, JE, 1M). LD: 1 Jun, LCal (KWy); 25 May (female), L Spfld (DB); 9 May, Carl.L (DK).

Ruddy Duck
EA: 12-14 Feb, Wilmette (EW); 12 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 4000, Carl.L, 14 Mar & 5 Apr (DK); 1883, LChau and Clear L (Mason Co), 2 Apr (R&SBj); 1200, La Salle L, 4 Apr (C&JMc); 800, Grassy L (Union Co), 4 Apr (KM); 720, Rend L (Franklin Co), 22 Mar (LS); 422, MS, 12 Apr (WS); 65, Decatur (Macon Co), 8 May—late passage (MD). LD: 5 Jun, Wolf L, LCal (DFS); 27 May (male), L Spfld (DB); 13 May, HL (KM).

Osprey
EA: 22 Mar, Embarras R (Coles Co)(KW); 10 Apr, Union Co (KM); 12 Apr (pr., returning to territory), Bergman's Slough (Cook Co)(KWy). LD: 29 May, JP (PC); 9 May, Adams Co (KV); 25 Apr (2), Mermet L (KM et al.). Maximum counts did not exceed two birds.

Mississippi Kite
EA: 26 Apr, Union Co (KM). Others: 8 May, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co)(KM); 8 May & 17 May, Fort Massac SP (Massac Co)(FB); 24 May, UCCA (DK).

Bald Eagle
EA: 3 Mar (ad.), M.View (MR). MC: 27 (15 ad., 12 imm.), LChau, 5 Mar (R&SBj); 8 (6 ad., 2 imm.), Union Co, 18 Apr (KM). LD: 2 May (ad.), so. Clinton Co (KM); 12 Apr (imm.), nw. of Spfld (DB). Few data outside nesting areas.

Northern Harrier
EA: 17 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 26 Mar (2), Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS). MC: 6, Pr.Rdg, 20 Apr (JW, EK). LD: 8-9 May (2 females), ea. McLean Co (MR, BW); 27 Apr, Kidd L (DK); 15 Apr (2), MidewinPr (DFS).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 1 Mar, Chi (JL); 4 Mar, Horseshoe Bottom Nature Preserve (Vermilion Co)(JOS). MC: 3, Sangamon Co, 27 Apr (DB). LD: 20 May, Urbana (RC); 16 May, JP (KC); 1 May, Union Co (KM). A poor spring.

Cooper's Hawk
EA: 21 Feb (imm. male), Riverwoods (Lake Co)(EW); 26 Feb, Adams Co (KV). LD: 12 May, Henline Creek (McLean Co)(MR); 7 May (ad.), JP (KC); 27 Apr, Mayestown (Monroe Co)(DK). No high counts reported.

Red-shouldered Hawk
EA: 2 Feb (2), OakwdBtm (KM); 28 Feb (ad.), Zander Woods FP (Cook Co)(WM); 28 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 4, OakwdBtm, 17 Mar (KM). LD: 9 May, Pr.Rdg (JW, EK); 9 May, Evanston (IM); 9 May, Shirland (Winnebago Co)(DW); 24 Apr, Farmdale Park (Tazewell Co)(SBj).

Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 7 Apr, Pomona (KM); 8 Apr (ad.), Carp.P (DB); 10 Apr (2), Joliet (Will Co)(CA). MC: 10, MidewinPr, 11 Apr (CA); ; 8, ThatcherWds, 2 May (DFS). LD: 1 Jun (migrating), DeerG (CF); 9 May (im.), Carp.P (DB); 13 Apr, Pomona (DK). A poor spring statewide.

Sanderling at Waukegan Beach, Lake Co. 25 May 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Swainson's Hawk
EA: 29 Apr (through at least 11 May), Coral Woods (so. McHenry Co)(RBa); 16 May (light morph ad.), Kane Co (C&JMc).

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: 34, Sangamon Co, 1 Mar (DB); 31 (24 at MidewinPr), we. Will Co, 2 Mar (DFS); 12, Jackson Co, 30 Mar (KM). Others: "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk: 28 Feb, Pulaski Co (KM); 21 Mar, Homer L (Champaign Co)(JOS). "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk: 5 Mar, West Frankfort (Franklin Co)(LS); 16 Mar, Rend L (Franklin Co)(LS); 21 Mar, Monroe Co (KM); 24 Mar & 4 Apr, Sangamon Co (DB); 18 Apr, Union Co (KM). Dark morph Red-tailed Hawk: 30 Mar, Sangamon Co (DB). Rufous morph Red-tailed Hawk: 28 Mar, M.View (MR).

Rough-legged Hawk
EA: 13 Mar (light morph), Barrington (Cook Co)(CF). MC: 3 (light morph), Sangamon Co, 1 Mar (DB); 2, Iroquois Co, 15 Mar (DFS). LD: 1 May, JP (EL); 18 Apr (2), Filson (Douglas Co)(RC).

American Kestrel
EA: 21 Mar, JP (SC). MC: 14, Sangamon Co, 4 Mar (DFS); 8, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM).

Merlin
EA: 7 Mar, Chi (JL); 29 Mar, Urbana (RC). MC: 3, Chi, 25 Mar (JL). LD: 17 May, Mermet L (FB); 17 May, Colfax (MR); 8 May, Carp.P (DB); 9 May, Madison Co (*FH); 9 May, Evanston (IM, JE, EW); 3 May (female), Winnebago Co (DW). Others: About nine additional reported, all from Cook Co.

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 4 Mar, Chi (JL); 4 Apr, Middle Fork River FP (Champaign Co)(RC); 14 Apr, CypCrk (KM). MC: 2, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW). LD: 28 May, Pr.Rdg (JTH); 21 May, we. of Kenny (DeWitt Co)(JC); 9 May, La Salle L (C&JMc); 18 Apr (migrant), Evanston (JE). Almost no observers indicated whether sightings involved the reintroduced race *anatum* vs. the migratory race *tundrius*. However, the number of reports (25+, including 6 Spring Bird Count documentations) and several late dates seemed excessive for migrants amid an otherwise poor spring for northern raptors, which may indicate that reintroduced populations are spreading.

Ring-necked Pheasant
EA: 14 Mar (8 females), Henline Pit (McLean Co), where absent all winter (MR). MC: 17, Sangamon Co, 15 Mar (DB).

Greater Prairie-Chicken
MC: 84 males, Pr.Rdg, April (SS, JW et al.); 4, Kinmundy (Marion Co), 8 Mar (MR). One extralimital report: 14 Apr (one male, possibly two females), ea. of Enfield (**White Co**)(*DvW).

Wild Turkey
MC: 33, Sangamon Co, 6 Mar (DB); 12, Madison Co, 7 Mar (KM). Others: 24 Feb, Adams Co (KV); 5 Apr, Germantown (Clinton Co)(DK); 6 May, M.View (MR).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 22, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 21, Pr.Rdg, 20 Apr (JW); 15, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 5, Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co), 10 Apr (C&JMc).

Yellow Rail
Two reports: 22 Apr, Middle Fork River FP (Champaign Co)(RC); 9 May, Galesburg (Knox Co)(*LMc).

King Rail
MC: 2, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co), 25 Apr (DK). Other: 9 May, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW). No other data.

Virginia Rail
EA: 3 Apr (dead), GrantP (KWy); 5 Apr, Normal (McLean Co)(MR); 5 Apr, Clin.L (RC); 7 Apr, CypCrk (KM). MC: 5, OakwdBtm, 18 Apr (KM); 5, Powderhorn L FP, LCal, 26 Apr (WM); 5, Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW). LD: 17 May, Henline Pit (McLean Co)(MR et al.); 2 May, DeerG (CF); 1 May, CypCrk (KM).

Sora
EA: 27 Mar (2), SLSP (DB); 28 Mar, Lake Co (DMB); 1 Apr, CypCrk (KM). MC: 17, MidewinPr, 29 Apr (DFS); 15, Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW). LD: 26 May, L Spfld (DB); 9 May, Clinton Co (KM); 6 May, JP (KEH).

Common Moorhen
EA: 9 May, LCal (WM); 13 May, Arcola (Douglas Co)(RC, GL). MC: 4, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co), 31 May (RBa). LD: 28 May, Adams Co (KV); 27 May, Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS).

American Coot
EA: 23 Feb, JP (PC); 26 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 6 Mar, HL (KM). MC: 2500, La Salle L, 4 Apr (C&JMc); 1000, Sangamon Co, 1 Apr (DB); 750, CONWR, 1 Apr (KM); 605, LCal, 19 Mar (DFS). LD: 13 May (2), HL (KM); stragglers into Jun in no. and central IL.

Sandhill Crane
EA: 19 Feb (7), Rockton (Winnebago Co)(DW); 22 Feb (several flocks, up to 47 birds each), Champaign Co (GL, EC, RC). Late Feb arrivals noted earlier than usual at several sites. MC: 200, Cook Co, 28 Feb (WM); 200 (in 4 flocks), Middle Fork FWA (Vermilion Co), 16 Mar (JOS). LD: **9 Jun** (1 migrating), Colfax (MR); 23 May, GLPSP (DFS, CA); 21 Mar (3), we. of Homer (Champaign Co)(JOS). No data from so. IL

Black-bellied Plover
EA: **27 Mar** (10), Black Bottoms (Massac Co), with 200+ American Golden-Plovers (*FB, LB)—**earliest arrival for IL**; 11 May, sw. of Fairmount (Vermilion Co)(JOS); 14 May, Wauk (EW).

MC: 36, Black Bottoms (Massac Co), 18 May (FB); 20, Fountain Bluff (Jackson Co), 24 May (DK). LD: 2 Jun, sw. Pope Co (VK); 31 May, Wauk (EW); 17 May (6), ea. of Spfld (DB).

American Golden-Plover

EA: 21 Mar (200), Heyworth (RC); 26 Mar, Madison Co (FH); 30 Apr - 3 May (18), no. of Somonauk (De Kalb Co)(DJS). MC: 3500, Filson (Douglas Co), 18 Apr (RC); 2000, Vermilion Co, 8 Apr (JOS); 2000+, Douglas Co, 10 May (MD); 1000, Colfax, 25 Apr (MR); 1000, so.-central Champaign Co, 2 May (RC); 680, Union Co, 1 Apr (KM). LD: 30 May, Thomasboro (Champaign Co)(RC); 26 Apr (4), Union Co (KM).

Semipalmated Plover

EA: 13 Apr, CypCrk (KM); 18 Apr, LShel (RC). MC: 30+, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 16-17 May (RBa); 15, Berry (Sangamon Co), 14 May (DB); 3, CypCrk, 24 Apr (KM). LD: **25 Jun** (3), central Iroquois Co (VK); 7 Jun, O'Hare Post Office ponds (Cook Co)(DFS); 3 Jun, ne. Massac Co (VK, CH).

Killdeer

EA: 29 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 2 Feb (8), St. Clair Co (KM); 15 Feb, Buffalo Grove (Lake Co)(DJ) and JP (PC). Local record early arrivals noted at several sites. MC: 121, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 49, Sangamon Co, 21 Mar (DB); 30, LCal, 9 May (WM). LD: 16 May, JP (PC).

Black-necked Stilt

EA: 26 Apr (female), **SLSP** (*DB, BD)—**first Sangamon Co record**; 26 Apr - 1 May, Block Station near Philo (**Champaign Co**)(FS, *RC, m.ob.)—**first Champaign Co record**; 1 May, Union Co (KM). MC: 5, Black Bottoms (Massac Co), 18 May (FB); 4, ea. barrow pit off exit 17 of I-24 (Massac Co), 17 May (FB). LD: 3 Jun (4 ad.), ne. Massac Co (FB, VK); 24 May (2), East Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co)(DK).

American Avocet

EA: 15 Apr, Marine Point (Sangamon Co)(DB); 29 Apr, L Charleston (Coles Co)(EB); 3 May, Pulaski Co (FB). LD: 20-23 May, near Mendota (La Salle Co)(C&JMc, DJS); 17 May, Cerro Gordo (Piatt Co)(MD). No other records.

Greater Yellowlegs

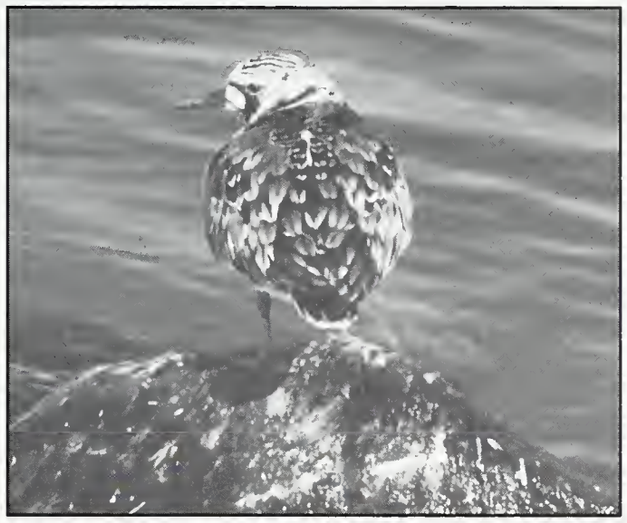
EA: 7 Mar (3), Carl.L (county?)(KM); 25 Mar, so. of Rochester (Sangamon Co)(DB); 4 Apr (4), La Salle Co (C&JMc); 4 Apr, Lake Co (DJ). MC: 30, CypCrk, 10 Apr (KM); 25, Sangamon Co, 4 May (DB); 20, Sta Fe Btm, 5 Apr (DK). LD: Into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 9 May (4), Clinton Co (KM).

Lesser Yellowlegs

EA: **21 Feb**, Carl.L (Bond Co)(KM); **1 Mar**, La Salle L (C&JMc); 22 Mar, SLSP (DB). MC: 180, CypCrk, 10 Apr (KM); 150, Sta Fe Btm, 5 Apr (DK); 80, Sangamon Co, 16 Apr (DB). LD: 26 May, Adams Co (KV); 13 May (11), HL (KM).

Solitary Sandpiper

EA: 4 Apr, Cisco (Piatt Co)(MD); 4 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 15 Apr (2), MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 12, Mermet L, 24 Apr (KM); 11, Sangamon Co, 1 May (DB). LD: 8 Jun, MidewinPr (DFS); 30 May, near Philo (Champaign Co)(RC); 9 May (6), Clinton Co (KM).



Ruddy Turnstones at Waukegan Beach, Lake Co. 25 May 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.

Willet

EA: 29 Apr (32), near L Charleston (Coles Co)(RBr); 3 May (2), Evanston (JE); 6 May, flooded field in Massac Co (FB); 12 May (4), Marine Point (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: **32**, **Coles Co**, 29 Apr, as above—**high count for county**; 12, LCal, 9 May (WM). LD: 18 May, SLSP (DB); 7-9 May, Mermet L (FB, VK); 9 May, Evanston (JE, IM, EW).

Spotted Sandpiper

EA: 13 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 21 Apr (2), SLSP (DB); 22 Apr, JP (WC). MC: 20+, LCal, 16 May (WS); 14, Sangamon Co, 21 May (DB); 7, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 1 Jun (2), JP (PC); 23 May (6), Carl.L (DK); 16-17 May (6), Heyworth (MR et al.).

Upland Sandpiper

EA: **4 Apr**, Mermet L (FB); 26 Apr (6), Savoy (Champaign Co)(GL, RC); 29 Apr, MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 6, Pr.Rdg, 17 Apr (JW, EK); 6, Savoy (Champaign Co), 26 Apr (GL, RC); 3, MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 2, La Salle Co, 30 May (C&JMc).

Whimbrel

One report: 2 Jun (**6**), near Ullin (**Pulaski Co**)(*VK, FB, m.ob.).

Hudsonian Godwit

All reports: 26 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 7 May (2), Bellrose Ref. (FB, VK); 14-15 May, Decatur (Macon Co)(MD); 16 May (pr.), Oakley (Macon Co)(MD); 26 May, Adams Co (KV).

Marbled Godwit

EA: 24 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 26 Apr, near Bellrose Ref. (FB). MC: 4, HL, 13 May (KM). LD: 25 May, La Salle L (C&JMc); 7 May, Bellrose Ref. (VK, FB).

Ruddy Turnstone

EA: 14 May (2), Wauk (EW); 16 May (5), Oakley (Macon Co)(MD, RC et al.); 16 May, Colfax (MR, TD, JE); 17 May, so. Johnson Co (VK, FB); 23 May, Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK). MC: 41, Wauk, 25 May (EW, JE, MR); 6, La Salle L, 25 May (C&JMc). LD: 6 Jun, JP (KC); 31 May (2), La Salle L (C&JMc).

Red Knot

Only two reports, both inland: 14 May (breeding plumage), Decatur (Macon Co)(MD); 16-17 May (ad.), Urbana (GL, RC, EC)—**first Champaign Co record**.

Sanderling

EA: 5 May (3), Massac Co (FB); 14 May (3), Wauk (EW); 16 May, Oakley (Macon Co)(MD). MC: 23, Wauk, 25 &31 May (EW); 5, Massac Co, 15 May (FB). LD: 4 Jun (2), JP (PC); 26 May, Adams Co (KV).

Semipalmated Sandpiper

EA: 26 Apr, Heyworth (MF, TB); 9 May, Clinton Co (KM); 20 May (6), Mendota (La Salle Co)(C&JMc). MC: 54, La Salle L, 31 May (C&JMc); 42, Sangamon Co, 31 May (DB); 31, McLean Co, 16 May (MR, TD, JE). LD: 7 Jun (25), O?Hare Post Office ponds (Cook Co)(DFS); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 23 May (3), Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 8 May (2), Massac Co (FB); 14 May (2), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 16-17 May, Heyworth (MR et al.). MC: 3, Massac Co, 17 May (FB). LD: 31 May, Divernon (Sangamon Co)(DB). No data received from no. IL.

Least Sandpiper
EA: 7 Apr, CypCrk (KM); 2 May, near Philo (Champaign Co)(RC). MC: **250**, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 16-17 May (RBa); 53, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB); 36, McLean Co, 16 May (MR, TD, JE); 12, HL, 13 May (KM). LD: 26 May, Adams Co (KV); 23 May, LCal (EW, JE, MR).

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 4 May, Massac Co (FB); 11 May, La Salle L (C&JMc); 14 May (4), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: 14, La Salle L, 24 May (C&JMc); 6, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB); 6, Massac Co, 20 May (FB). LD: 7 Jun, O'Hare Post Office ponds (Cook Co)(DFS); 3 Jun (3), ne. Massac Co (VK, CH); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB).

Baird's Sandpiper
Three reports of singles: 14 May, Oakley (Macon Co)(MD); 16 May, Linc.P (CA, WS); 17 May, Urbana (RC).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 27 Mar (6), ea. of Spfld (DB); 28 Mar (2), Evanston (JE); 29 Mar (15), Kidd L (DK). MC: 400, no. Vermilion Co, 11 Apr (RC); 375, CypCrk, 10 Apr (KM); 370+, Winnebago Co, 18 Apr (EW). LD: Into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 31 May, Monroe Co (FH).

Dunlin
EA: **4 Apr**, Sta Fe Btm (DK); 19 Apr (10), Dalton City (Macon Co)(MD); 14 May (4), Wauk (EW). MC: 44, Wauk, 25 May (EW, JE, MR); 40, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 23 May (DK); 14, Colfax, 16 May (MR, TD, JE). LD: 5 Jun, Wolf L, LCal (DFS); 23 May (40), Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK); 20 May, L Spfld (DB).

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 7 May (2), Bellrose Ref. (FB); 14 May (2), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB). LD: 25 May, La Salle Co (DJS); 24 May (3), Massac Co (FB); 23 May, LCal (EW, JE, MR); 16 May, Decatur (Macon Co)(RC, GL, EC).

Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 30 Apr (12), Pulaski Co (KM); 3 May (5), Decatur (Macon Co)(MD). MC: 55, Pulaski Co, 1 May (KM); 37, Colfax, 17 May (MR et al.); 10, LCal, 17 May (WM). LD: 24 May (2), Massac Co (FB); 23 May, LCal (EW, JE, MR); 21 May (4), so. of Rochester (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: 14 Apr (3), Mermet L (FB); 17 Apr, sw. of Spfld (DB). MC: 15, Kidd L, 27 Apr (DK); 6, Sangamon Co, 26 Apr & 2 May (DB). LD: **14 May** (3), Decatur (Macon Co)(MD); 3 May (6), so. of Rochester (Sangamon Co)(DB); 27 Apr (15), Kidd L (DK).

Common Snipe
EA: 26 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 25 Mar, Chi (JL); 29 Mar, HL (FH). MC: 90+, 4 Apr, no. of Sparta (Randolph Co)(*TJD); 30, Clin.L, 10 Apr (MR); 24, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS); 22, Pulaski Co, 4 Apr (KM). LD: 3 May, near L Spfld (DB); 1 May, CypCrk (KM); 30 Apr, JP (PC).

American Woodcock
EA: 10 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 21 Feb (2), Carl.L (county?)(KM); 1 Mar, Chi (JL). MC: 30, M.View, 18 Mar (MR); 15, Urbana, 22 Feb (RC). LD: 14 May, JP (PC); 9 May, Adams Co (KV).

Wilson's Phalarope
EA: 14 Apr, Oakley (Macon Co)(MD); 16 Apr, Mendota (La Salle Co)(DW); 4 May (male), near Laomi (Sangamon Co)(DB); 4 May (female), Massac Co (FB). MC: 3, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM, RHa). LD: 19 May (female), ea. of Spfld (DB); 17 May, Massac Co (FB); 17 May, Bellrose Ref. (FB); 17 May, Savoy (Champaign Co)(RC); 17 May (male), LCal (JSu, WM); 16 May (female), Glacial Park (McHenry Co)(RBa); 13 May, Filson (Douglas Co)(GL, RC).

Laughing Gull
EA: 30 Apr (ad.), GrantP (DFS). LD: 13 Jun (ad.), Linc.P (EW, IM). Others: 28 May+, Chi (taking handouts at Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot for second consecutive summer)(MBa fide WM); 31 May, Linc.P (RC).

Franklin's Gull
EA: 26 Apr (subad.), SLSP (DB); 14 May (1st spring), Wauk (EW); 17 May (2), Clin.L (MD). MC: 8, Carl.L, 23-25 May (DK). LD: 24 May (2—ad. and subad.), Clin.L (RC); 24 May, SRSP (C&JMc); 20 May (ad.), Wilmette (JE).

Bonaparte's Gull
EA: 28 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 27 Mar, McHenry Co (CF); 28 Mar (ad.), Evanston (JE). MC: 1000, Sta Fe Btm, 5 Apr (DK); 900, CONWR, 1 Apr (KM); 380+, Winnebago Co, 18 Apr (EW); 315, SRSP, 10 Apr (C&JMc); 300, Clin.L, 10 Apr (MR). LD: 30 May (imm.), Evanston (JE); 28 May (imm.), L Spfld (DB); 1 May (20), CONWR (KM). Poor to locally very poor spring.

Ring-billed Gull
EA: 25 Feb (3), Urbana, where none winter (RC). MC: 8000, Sangamon Co, 23 Mar (DB); 6000, Clin.L, 14 Mar (RC); 1250, Madison Co, 11 Mar (KM); 1000, CONWR, 25 Mar (KM); 532, LChau and Clear L (Mason Co), 12 Mar (R&SBj). No high counts received from no. IL. LD: 16 May, L Evergreen (McLean Co)(MR, TD, JE).

Herring Gull
MC: 650 (mostly migrating), Evanston, 9 May (EW, JE, IM); 55, LChau and Clear L (Mason Co), 12 Mar (R&SBj); 12, Sangamon Co, 15 Mar (DB). LD: 26 May (imm.), L Spfld (DB); 18 Mar (5), HL (KM). Low numbers were symptomatic of a poor season for arctic gulls statewide.

Thayer's Gull
EA: 4 Mar, Chi (JL). MC: 3, Lake Co, 14 Mar (DFS); 2, Chi, 15 Mar (JL). LD: 22 May, Shabbona L SP (**De Kalb Co**)(DJS, m.ob.)—possibly a first county record; 3-11 May (ad. with injured wing), JP (PC); 7 May (ad.), GrantP (DFS).

Iceland Gull
One report: 3 May (ad.), Evanston (JE, ph.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 14-15 Mar (ad.), Chi (JL). MC: 2, LCal, 14 Mar (CA). LD: 9 May, Lake Co (*RB); 11 Apr (third summer plumage), L Spfld (*DB). Others: A wintering adult at Sangamon Co seen through 2 Apr (DB).

Glaucous Gull
EA: 10 Mar (ad.), GrantP (DFS). MC: 12, Chi, 14 Mar (JL). LD: 9 May, Lake Co (*RB). Almost no reports, and none away from L Michigan.

Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 27 Feb (ad.), JP (PC); 11 Mar, Grayslake (Lake Co)(SH). LD: 17-22 May (1st spring), Wauk (EW et al.). Very few reports, and none outside northeast.

Caspian Tern
EA: **4 Apr**, JP (SC); 15 Apr, L Spfld (DB); 23 Apr, CONWR (KM). MC: **618** (migrating), Evanston, 9 May (EW, JE, IM) —**unprecedented IL high count**; includes 521 in two hours documented at JP (*PC); 6, Sangamon Co, 21 Apr (DB); 3, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 23 May, Adams Co (KV); 18 May, Black Bottoms (Massac Co)(FB); 9 May, L Spfld (DB). Other than the 9 May flight at L Michigan, a modest spring.

Common Tern
EA: 7 May, JP (PC, BH); 8 May (2), Decatur (Macon Co)(MD). MC: 50+ (mostly breeding residents), Wauk, 31 May (EW); 27, La Salle L, 24 May (C&JMc). LD: 31 May, Evanston (EW); 24 May (2), L Spfld (DB). An extremely poor season statewide; only two reports outside no. IL (as above).

Forster's Tern
EA: 12 Apr (4), L Spfld (DB); 13 Apr (4), Mermet L (KM); 3 May

(2), JP (PC). MC: 118, Evanston, 9 May (EW, JE, IM); 21, SRSP, 22 May (C&JMc); 14, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 12 Jun (7), Evanston (EW); 24 May (3), Clin.L (RC); 22 May, Mermet L (FB). Poor numbers.

Least Tern
MC: 9, Black Bottoms (Massac Co), 18 May (FB).

Black Tern
EA: 7 May (5), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 7 May (3), Big Muddy Levee (Union Co)(FB); 9 May (6), Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (DW). MC: 80, Sav. Depot, 16 May (EW); 52, Heyworth, 16 May (MR, TD, JE); 21, La Salle L, 24 May (C&JMc); 21, off Fairfield Road (Lake Co), 9 May (DMB); 18, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB); 17, Carl.L (Fayette Co), 23 May (DK). LD: 31 May (4), Divernon (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Caspian Terns reached unprecedented numbers the spring of 1998. Some of the 618 birds counted in Evanston, Cook Co., on 9 May 1998 are shown here. Photo by Eric Walters.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
All reports: 4 Apr, but present since at least 27 May 1997, Urbana (*RC); early Feb. - 7 Mar, Nokomis (Montgomery Co)(*MR, ph.). Undocumented reports: 8 Mar, Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK); 2 May, Urbana (same as above)(CA); 30 May (wooing a "Ringed Turtle-Dove"), Linc.P (JL). **Collared-Dove, sp**?: 2 May, Palatine (Cook Co)(*CF).

Mourning Dove
MC: 114, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 74, HL, 8 Apr (DFS); 38, Sangamon Co, 4 Mar (DB). No data on migrants received.

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 13 May (3), MidewinPr (DFS); 16 May, ea. of Spfld (DB); 16 May, Lodge Park (Piatt Co)(GL, EC, RC); 17 May, M.View (MR et al.). MC: 3, MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 3, Palos, 14 and 16 May (DFS, WS). LD: 29 May, JP (PC); 24 May, Linc.Gdn (DB). No reports from so. IL, and only four from central IL (as above).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 6 May, L Spfld (DB); 13 May (2), JP (PC et al.); 13 May, SRSP (C&JMc). MC: 15, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 10, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB). Best high counts in last five years, although numbers remain unimpressive.

Barn Owl
One report: 29 Mar, Urbana (*RC).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 4, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 9 May (DW). LD: 12-16 May (gray morph), JP (where last recorded in 1983)(WS, PC, m.ob.).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 7, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 7, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB). No data on migrants received.

Snowy Owl
One report: 8 Mar (almost pure white adult male), La Salle Co (C&JMc).

Barred Owl
MC: 8, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 8, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB).

Long-eared Owl
MC: 8, Middle Fork FWA (Vermilion Co), 15 Mar (RC, GL). LD: 8 Mar, Hazlet SP (Clinton Co)(DK)—the only migrant reported.

Short-eared Owl
EA: 13 Mar, New Athens (St. Clair Co)(DK); 23 Mar, near L Spfld (DB). MC: 12, Pr.Rdg, 1 Apr (JW, EK); 8, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). Very few reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl
Four records: 12 Feb - 21 Mar (2 through at least 12 Mar), Hazlet SP (Clinton Co)(DK, KM); 1 Mar (wintering bird), Allerton Park (Piatt Co)(MD); 17 Mar, Palos (DFS); 5 Apr, Linc.P (JL, EW, m.ob., ph.).

Common Nighthawk
EA: 26 Apr, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM); 2 May, Adams Co (KV); 8 May, Ottawa (La Salle Co)(C&JMc). MC: 8, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). Disturbingly poor numbers suggest continued decline.

Chuck-will's-widow
EA: 30 Apr (2), Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co)(KM). MC: 2, SRSF, 11 May (R&SBj). Barely reported.

Whip-poor-will
EA: 11 Apr, Pomona (DK); 14 Apr, Buffalo Rock SP (La Salle Co)(C&JMc); 15 Apr, adjacent to SRSF (R&SBj). MC: 114 calling, SRSF, 11 May—count extrapolated from standardized census route (R&SBj); 10+, Saline Co, 24 Apr (KM, CTa); 6, no. Winnebago Co, 28 May (DW). LD: 13 May (2), Evanston/ Wilmette (JE).

Chimney Swift
EA: 7 Apr, Wash.P (DB); 7 Apr (50), Belleville (St. Clair Co)(DK); 7 Apr (4), Union Co (KM); 13 Apr, Country Club Hills (Cook Co)(WS). MC: 100, Union Co, 30 Apr (KM); 80, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB); 69, Oak Park (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS). This species merits monitoring in light of consistently decreasing high counts over past several years; sub-normal numbers received comment at Sangamon Co (DB) and JP (PC).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: 14 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co)(KM); 2 May, Adams Co (KV); 9 May, JP (DA et al.). MC: 7, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); maxima to 2 in Sangamon Co (DB). LD: 30 May, Chi (EW). Poor season.

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 4 Mar, Riverwoods (Lake Co)(EW); 12 Mar (male), JP (PC). MC: 4, Sangamon Co, 6 Apr & 18 Apr (DB); 3, OakwdBtm, 18 Apr (KM). LD: 13 May (male), JP (PC). Very few reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 10 Apr, L Bloomington (McLean Co)(MR); 25 Apr, Chi (JL) and JP (EL). MC: 18, Union Co, 11 Apr (KM); 14, Palos Park

Woods (Cook Co), 9 May (CT); 12, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 9, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB). LD: 23 May, JP (KC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
EA: 8 Apr (male), Evanston (JE); 28 Apr (male), JP (PC, m.ob.). MC: 36, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 20, SLSP, 6 Mar (DFS); 10, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (SF). LD: 9 May (female), JP (PC, FKB). Records from L Michigan parks are treated as migrants. "This species is increasing, while its rival the Red-headed Woodpecker is decreasing" (DB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 25 Mar (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 26 Mar (5), Rockford (Winnebago Co)(DW); 26 Mar (2), JP (PC) and (1), Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS); 1 Apr, Pomona (KM). MC: 15, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (CA, SF); 9, Sangamon Co, 4 Apr (DB). Only singles reported from so. IL. LD: 14 May, Chi (JL); 3 May, Urbana (RC); 11 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 20, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (SF); 16, Sangamon Co, 27 Mar & 5 Apr (DB); 14, 9 May, Carl.L (DK); 9, 18 Apr, Union Co (KM).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 15, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 6, Sangamon Co, 29 Mar (DB).

Northern Flicker
EA: 22 Mar, Henline Creek (McLean Co)(MR); 26 Mar (4), JP (PC, KC). MC: 37, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS); 21, Sangamon Co, 1 Mar (DB); 21, JP, 14 Apr (PC); 12, OakwdBtm, 17 Apr (KM). LD: 20 May (2), JP (KC); 11 Apr (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 7, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 3, Sangamon Co, 4 Apr - 17 May (DB). Others: 29 Mar, Adams Co (KV); 29 Mar, Columbia Woods (Cook Co)(KWy); 10 Apr, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co)(MR); 16 May, MsPal (EW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 14 May, JP (KC); 15 May, Wash.P (DB); 25 May, Madison Co (FH). LD: 13 Jun, Mahomet (Champaign Co)(RC); 5 Jun (2), Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS). No counts higher than two reported.

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 7 May (male), SLSP (DB); 9 May, statewide. MC: 19, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 15, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB); 9, LCal, 22 May (DFS). LD: 9 Jun, Urbana (RC). Poor numbers.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: 15 May, GrantP (DFS) and JP (PC et al.); 15 May (2), Wash.P (DB); 18 May, Seilbeck Bottoms (Massac Co)(FB). MC: 4, Linc. P, 31 May (RC); 3, Sangamon Co, 26 May (DB). LD: 13 Jun, Linc. P (EW, IM); 8 Jun, Urbana (RC). Late migration in poor numbers.

Acadian Flycatcher
EA: 30 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 2 May, Lodge Park (Piatt Co)(RC); 12 May, JP (PC). MC: 9, Sugar River FP(Winnebago Co), 25 May (DW); 6, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 6, Heron Pond, 14 May (KM). LD: 31 May, JP (PC); 26 May, Wash.P (DB).

Alder Flycatcher
EA: 17 May, Urbana (RC); 24 May, SRSP (C&JMc); 29 May, JP (PC). MC: 6, Urbana, 24 May (RC); 4, Sangamon Co, 26 May (DB); 4, GrantP, 29 May (DFS); 3, Carl.L, 23 May (DK). LD: 13 Jun, Linc.P (EW); 13 Jun (2), Mahomet (Champaign Co)(RC); 6 Jun, Flora (Clay Co)(RC).

Willow Flycatcher
EA: 9 May, Mahomet (Champaign Co)(RC, GL); 9 May, Mermet L (FB); 15 May, JP (PC, KC). MC: 8, LCal, 27 May (DFS); 6, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 24 May (DW). LD: 13 Jun, Linc.P (EW); 29 May, Holten SP (KM).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 25 Apr, Pomona (KM et al.); 26 Apr, Wash.P (DB); 3 May, Evanston (JE) and JP (PC). MC: 7, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 6, Sangamon Co, 8 May (DB); 6, GrantP, 6 May (DFS). LD: 9 Jun, Urbana (RC); 4 Jun, JP (PC); 15 May, Seilbeck Bottoms (Massac Co)(FB). While numbers for all the *Empidonax* flycatchers were modest, the counts for this species were disturbingly low.

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 20 Feb (2), OakwdBtm (KM); 25 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 15 Mar, Chi (JL). MC: 13, Sangamon Co, 26 Mar (DB); 9, JP, 30 Mar (PC); 8, SRSP, 28 Mar (C&JMc); 5, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 1 May, Wilmette (JE).

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 17 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM); 25 Apr, Spfld (RC); 5 May, JP (WS, SF). MC: 13, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 13, Palos, 14 May (DFS); 8, Clinton Co, 9 May (DK, KM). LD: 9 Jun (2), Urbana (RC).

Western Kingbird
EA: 9 May, Madison Co (*FH); 16 May, **Linc.P** (JL, KMo); 19 May, **Evanston** (JE). LD: **13 Jun**, **Linc.P** (EW, IM). A remarkable five records from Linc.P (fide EW).

Eastern Kingbird
EA: 13 Apr (2), Heron Pond (KM); 25 Apr, JP (EL); 25 Apr, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 34 (breeding population), MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 19, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 19, Mahomet and Fisher (Champaign Co), 9 May (RC, GL); 17, HL, 13 May (KM).

Loggerhead Shrike
EA: 21-29 Mar, Linc.P (JL, KWy); 25 Mar, SLSP—only record from Sangamon Co this spring (DB); 26 Mar, JP (*PC); 26 Mar, Van Vlissengen Prairie, LCal (DFS). MC: 17, Jasper Co, 20 Apr (JW, EK); 3, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 13 May, MidewinPr (DFS); 13 May, Ayers Prairie (Carroll Co)(KMy, VK); 2 May, so.-central Champaign Co (RC).

White-eyed Vireo
EA: 11 Apr (2), Giant City SP (Jackson Co)(KM); 11 Apr (2), Mermet L (DK); 16 Apr, Spfld (DB); 6-15 May, SRSP (C&JMc). MC: 12, Heron Pond, 24 Apr (KM); 6, Sangamon Co, 7 May (DB). LD: 25 May, John J. Duffy FP, Palos (DFS).

Bell's Vireo
EA: 6 May, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co)(KM); 13 May, LShel (RC, GL); 17 May, **M.View** (MR et al.). MC: 3, Sangamon Co, 21 May (DB); 3, Green River Conservation Area (Lee Co), 25 May (C&JMc); 2, HL, 13 May (KM); 2, Carl.L, 23 May (DK).

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 11 Apr, Devil?s Kitchen L (Williamson Co)(KM); 30 Apr (2 males), Carp.P (DB); 3 May, JP (fide PC). MC: 6, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM); 5, Sangamon Co, 8-9 May (DB); 3, JP, 13 May (PC, DM). LD: 17 May, JP (BH); 16 May, L Evergreen (McLean Co)(MR, TD, JE).

Blue-headed Vireo
EA: 25 Apr, Zander Woods FP (Cook Co)(WM); 25 Apr, Merwin Preserve (McLean Co)(MF); 1 May (2), AtwdRdg (KM). MC: 3, JP, 3 May (SC, PC); 3, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB); 2, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM). LD: 24 May, Linc.Gdn (DB); 13 May, HL (FH); 12 May (2), JP (PC).

Warbling Vireo
EA: 10 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co)(KM); 20 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 2 May, JP (PC). MC: 35 (breeding population), LCal, 27 May (DFS); 33, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 17, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 26 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM); 9 May, Adams Co (KV); 14 May (3), Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe (Cook Co)(DJ). MC: 3, Cook Co, 14 May, as above—the only count higher than two. LD: Migrants into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 24 May, Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co)(DJS); 23 May, O?Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM). Very scarce statewide.

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (KM); 30 Apr, Carp.P (DB); 3 May, Evanston (JE). MC: 48, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS); 39, Sangamon Co, 17

May (DB); 12, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM). LD: 16 Jun (male), JP (SC); 9 Jun (but 3 migrants on 8 Jun), Urbana (RC).

Blue Jay
EA: 19 Apr, JP (KC); 20 Apr (increased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 192, Evanston, 9 May (JE, EW, IM); 70, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 36, Sangamon Co, 2 May (DB). LD: 7 Jun, JP (PC); 17 May (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

American Crow
MC: 300, HL, 11 Mar (KM); 57, JP, 26 Feb (PC); 55, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB).

Fish Crow
EA: 25 Mar (12), Union Co (KM); 26 Mar (6), HL (KM); 29 Mar, Pomona (DK). Extralimital reports north to Adams Co are undocumented.

Horned Lark
EA: 15 Feb, JP (PC). MC: 205, Vermilion Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 80, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 37, Sangamon Co, 21 Mar (DB); 21, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB). LD: 2 May, Chi (JL).

Purple Martin
EA: 27 Mar (pr.), sw. of Spfld (DB); 28 Mar (50), Keyesport (Clinton Co)(DK); 9 Apr (male), JP (KC). MC: 50, Keyesport, 28 Mar, as above; 50, Carl.L (county?), 9 May (KM); 18, Durand (Winnebago Co), 9 May (DW); 12, Sangamon Co, 17 Apr & 22 Apr (DB); 12, Palos/Orland Park (Cook Co), 29-30 May (WS). LD: 30 May (female), JP (KC).

Tree Swallow
EA: 28 Feb (3), Mermet L (KM); 12 Mar (3), LChau, amid sub-freezing temperature (R&SBj); 28 Mar, Chi (JL). MC: **3000**, M.View, 6 May (MR); 1200, CypCrk, 1 May (KM); 320, Sangamon Co, 9 Apr (DB). LD: 24 May (2), SLSP (DB).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: 25 Mar, L Murphysboro SP (Jackson Co)(KM); 29 Mar, Adams Co (KV); 12 Apr (2), SRSP (C&JMc). MC: 40, CypCrk, 7 Apr (KM); 14, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), 29 Apr (DW); 13, Sangamon Co, 27 Apr (DB).

Bank Swallow
EA: 30 Mar, Randolph Co (KM); 9 Apr (2), Holten SP (DFS); 23 Apr, Evanston (EW). MC: 60, HL, 5 May (KM); 56, Seneca (La Salle Co), 9 May (C&JMc); 50+, LCal, 16 May (WS); 20, Sangamon Co, 29 May (DB). LD: 12 Jun (3), Evanston (EW).

Cliff Swallow
EA: 7 Apr, L Spfld (DB); 11 Apr (2), Pomona (DK); 11 Apr, CONWR (KM); 25 Apr, JP (EL). MC: 50, Sangamon Co, 12 May (DB); 15, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM); 10, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), 29 Apr (DW).

Barn Swallow
EA: 1 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 3 Apr, L Spfld (DB); 14 Apr (5), JP (KC, PC). MC: 73, JP, 9 May (KC et al.); 60, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB); 30, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). A poor spring.

Carolina Chickadee
MC: 45, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 14, Vermilion Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 14, Johnson Co, 19 Apr (KM).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 37, we. Will Co, 2 Mar (DFS); 23, Sangamon Co, 29 Mar & 18 Apr (DB); 20+, M.View, 14 Mar (MR).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 70, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 31, Union Co, 11 Apr (KM); 26, Sangamon Co, 2 May (DB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 11 Apr, Devil's Kitchen L (Williamson Co)(KM); 13 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 21 Apr, JP (EL, PC). MC: 23, Chi, 9 May (JL); 4, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB). LD: 17 May, JP (PC); 10 May, SLSP (DB); 9 May, Clinton Co (KM).

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 13, Vermilion Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 12, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 10, Sangamon Co, 18 Apr (DB). LD: 6 May, JP, where migrant (TH).

Brown Creeper
EA: 1 Mar, Carl.L (county?)(FH); 2 Mar (7), MidewinPr (DFS). MC: **70**, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (CA, SF)?see remarks; 13, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 13, Sangamon Co, 31 Mar (DB); 2, OakwdBtm, 17 Mar (KM). LD: **4 Jun** (breeding?), Swallow Cliff FP, Palos (DFS); 2 May, SLSP (DB); 4 Apr, Pomona (KM). Others: 20 Apr, singing male, Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB). The count of 70 is the highest spring total in the standard IL journals published since Bohlen's (1989) *Birds of Illinois*, but there is a previously unpublished high of **125-150**, JP, 23 Apr 1950—"Each tree on wooded island seemed to have a brown creeper on it" (Milton Adair, unpublished field journals).

Carolina Wren
EA: 28 Mar, SRSP (C&JMc). MC: 20, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 17, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 16, Sangamon Co, 25 Apr (DB). Others (no. IL): 19 Mar - 28 Apr, Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS); 29 Mar - 18 May and 22 Apr -13 May, two sites in Palos (CT); 21 Apr, Rockford, and 21 Apr - 30 May, Rockton (Winnebago Co)(DW).

Bewick's Wren
Three reports: 28 Mar, **Adams Co** (KV); 28-29 Mar (male), Sparta (Randolph Co)(*TJD); 7 April. L Springfield (DB).

House Wren
EA: 5 Apr, Carlyle Sewage Pond (Clinton Co)(DK); 14 Apr, Urbana (RC); 15 Apr, Mundelein (Lake County) (SD). MC: 47 (breeding population), MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 30, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB); 8, Clinton Co, 2 May (KM). LD: 30 May, JP (PC). Others: 5 Mar, SLSP—apparently wintering (DB).

Winter Wren
EA: 1 Mar (locally wintering?), Urbana (RC); 5 Mar (locally wintering?), Palos (CT); 25 Mar, L Murphysboro SP(Jackson Co)(KM); 26 Mar (5), Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Mar, SRSP (C&JMc). MC: 11, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (SF, CA); 7, Sangamon Co, 6 Apr (DB); 2, Pomona, 1 Apr (KM). LD: 13 May, Chi (JL); 9 May (2), McDonough Co (*LM); 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM).

Sedge Wren
EA: 19 Apr (2), Clin.L (RC, GL); 26 Apr (2), JP (PC, AS) and (1), Chi (JL). MC: 8, L Kakusha, Mendota (La Salle Co), 10 May (C&JMc); 7, L Evergreen (McLean Co), 16 May (MR, TD, JE); 7, DeerG, 24 May (CF); 3, Pr.Rdg, 6 May (JW). LD: 27 May, Boone Co (AB); 21 May, JP (KC).

Marsh Wren
EA: 14 Apr, SLSP (DB); 30 Apr, JP (PC) and LCal (WM); 1 May, CypCrk (KM)—the only report from so. IL. MC: 15, DeerG, 24 May (CF); 6, Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW); 2, Sangamon Co, 3 May (DB). LD: 16 May, SLSP (DB); 13 May, Chi (JL).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 6 Mar (wintering locally?), Elkhart (Logan Co)(DFS); 22 Mar, Urbana (RC); 26 Mar (2), JP (PC) and (1), Evanston (EW). MC: **150+**, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co), 5 Apr (CA, SF)—ties previous spring high count; 70, Urbana, 27 Mar (RC); 8, L Murphysboro SP (Jackson Co), 25 Mar (KM). LD: 13 May (2), Chi (JL); 16 Apr (female), Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB); 13 Apr, Mermet L (KM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 5 Mar (wintering locally?), Clin.L (DFS); 19 Mar, Linc.Gdn (DB); 26 Mar, JP (PC); 29 Mar, Pomona (DK). MC: 44, JP, 9 May (FKB, PC et al.); 33, Sangamon Co, 16 Apr (DB); 20, Bloomington (McLean Co), 2 May (MR); 15, Heron Pond, 19 Apr (KM). LD: 16 May (2), Chi (JL); 13 May, Urbana (RC); 2 May (7), so. Clinton Co (KM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
EA: 29 Mar (8), Pomona (DK); 7 Apr, Colfax (MR); 7 Apr (male), Wash.P (DB); 13 Apr, JP (KC). MC: 43, Union Co, 30 Apr (KM); 21, JP, 24 Apr (PC); 8, Sangamon Co, 30 Apr (DB). LD: 27 May, JP (JR).

Eastern Bluebird
EA: 24 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 21 Feb (4), Sav.Depot (DFS); 2 Mar, MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 41, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 25, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 11, Sangamon Co, 26 Apr (DB); 5, Wilmette, 29 Mar (JE). LD: 3 Jun (male), Wilmette (JE).

Veery
EA: 3 May, ThatcherWds (DFS); 6 May (3), Sangamon Co (DB); 6 May (2), Urbana (RC); 8 May (2), SRSP (C&JMc); 9 May, Clinton Co (KM). MC: 8, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 5, JP, 7 May (KC, PC). LD: 29 May, JP (KC); 26 May, Jordan Creek Wildlife Preserve (Vermilion Co)(JOS); 25 May, Hazlet SP (Clinton Co)(DK). A poor spring statewide.

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 30 Apr, Pomona (KM); 2 May, Chi (JL); 6 May, statewide. MC: 15, Urbana, 17 May (RC); 7, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB); 5, JP, 13 May (WS, PC); 4, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 4 Jun, JP (PC); 26 May, Carp.P (DB); 14 May, Heron Pond (KM). A poor to locally terrible spring statewide.

Swainson's Thrush
EA: 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 21 Apr (male), SLSP (DB); 29 Apr, Chi (JL). MC: 50, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 22, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS); 9, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 15 Jun, Urbana (RC); 5 Jun, JP (KC); 9 May (6), Clinton Co (KM). A terrible spring statewide.

Hermit Thrush
EA: 11 Mar (2), Calhoun Co (KM); 13 Mar (2), Crabtree NC, Barrington (Cook Co)(CF); 18 Mar, Boone Co (AB); 25 Mar, L Spfld (DB). MC: 41, JP, 26 Apr (PC); 12, Sangamon Co, 7 Apr & 25 Apr (DB); 12, Vermilion Co, 7 Apr (JOS); high counts of 2 in so. IL (KM, DK). LD: 13 May, Chi (JL); 11 May, Wash.P (DB); 26 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM). Low numbers statewide.

Wood Thrush
EA: 14 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM); 26 Apr (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 1 May, DeerG (CF). MC: 12, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM); 6 (breeding population), Grundy Co, 10 May (DFS); 5, Sangamon Co, 9 May & 16 May (DB). LD: 9 Jun, Urbana (RC); 16 May, JP (SC).

American Robin
EA: 6 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 14 Feb (male), JP (SC); 21 Feb (17), Klehm FP, Rockford (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: **2415**, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW) = 2063 southbound, JP, 26 Mar (PC), where largest flight since 1983: **5605** southbound over three days, JP, 25-27 Mar (PC); 200, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 100, Colfax, 3 Mar (MR); 100, Sangamon Co, 1 Mar & 21 Mar (DB). LD: 14 May (11 migrating), JP (PC). Other: An albino present in Saybrook (McLean Co) for sixth consecutive year.

Gray Catbird
EA: 18 Apr, Jo Daviess Co (EW); 18 Apr, OakwdBtm (KM); 19 Apr, SLSP (DB). MC: 61, GrantP, 13 May (DFS); 19, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 8, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 31 May, JP (SC).

Northern Mockingbird
EA: 11 Mar, Wolf L, LCal (DFS); 10 Apr, Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co)(C&JMc); 26 Apr, Woodstock (McHenry Co)(*JER). MC: 15, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 9, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 8 (breeding population), MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS). LD: 20 May, Evanston (JE).

Brown Thrasher
EA: 14 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 28 Mar (4), Sta Fe Btm (DK); 31 Mar, E. Conkey FP (Cook Co)(SF). MC: 35, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS); 17, Sangamon Co, 21 Apr (DB); 7, Pomona, 14 Apr (KM). LD: 12 Jun, JP (PC); 9 May (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

European Starling
EA: 15 Feb (168 migrants), JP (PC). MC: 1000, MidewinPr, 2 Mar (DFS); 560, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW). LD: 13 May (10 migrants), JP (PC).

American Pipit
EA: [1st passage:] 6 Mar, SLSP (DFS); 29 Mar, JP (PC, SC); 19 Apr (2), La Salle L (C&JMc); [2nd passage:] 1 May, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)(DW); 2 May, JP (PC); 2 May, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co)(SH). MC: **250**, Pr.Rdg, 6 Apr (JW, EK); 30, Sta Fe Btm, 22 Mar (DK); 20, Sangamon Co, 15 Apr (DB); 8, Evanston, 6 May (JO, EW). LD: 13 May, HL (KM); 9 May (3), Henline Pit (McLean Co)(MR, BW). The split migration described for this species was not well defined from the data received from most sites.

Cedar Waxwing [1st passage]
EA: 1 Feb (5), JP (KC); 20 Feb, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM); 2 Mar (105), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 100+, Mason Co, 15-16 Mar (R&SBj); 95, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 21 Feb (DW); 30, Pomona, 7 Apr (KM). LD: 16 Apr (10), Sangamon Co (DB); 30 Mar, Wilmette (JE).

Cedar Waxwing [2nd passage]
EA: 24 Apr (4), JP (DM, PC); 5 May (5), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: **730**+, Evanston/Wilmette, 19 May (JE); 65, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 50, O'Fallon, 12 May (St. Clair Co)(KM). LD: 29 May (40), Holten SP (KM), but migrants into Jun over central and no. IL.

Blue-winged Warbler
EA: 17 Apr, Pomona (KM); 25 Apr (male), Dam Park (Sangamon Co)(DB); 26 Apr (male), JP (KC). MC: 9, John J. Duffy FP (Cook Co), 27 May (CT); 5, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 30 May (DW). LD: 20 May (male), JP (KC); 17 May, Urbana (RC).

Golden-winged Warbler
EA: 25 Apr (male), Center Park (Sangamon Co)(DB); 6 May (2 males), JP (PC, KEH); 6 May (male), Evanston (JE); 9 May (3), Clinton Co (KM). MC: 3, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM); 3, JP, 25 May (PC, RH). Singles only (!) at Sangamon Co (DB). LD: 8 Jun, Urbana (RC); 30 May, Chi (EW); 11 May, Madison Co (FH). Poor migration at most sites.

Tennessee Warbler
EA: 18 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 2 May, Lodge Park (Piatt Co)(RC); 4 May, JP (KC). MC: 200+, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 80, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS); 64, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 4 Jun, GrantP (DFS); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 16 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: 13 Apr (3), Heron Pond (KM); 15 Apr, SLSP (DB); 18 Apr, JP (fide PC). MC: 5, Evanston, 29 Apr (JE); 3, Heron Pond, 13 Apr (KM); 3, LCal, 15 May (DFS). LD: 13 May, Urbana (RC); 13 May, JP (PC); 2 May (2), so. Clinton Co (KM).

Nashville Warbler
EA: 18 Apr, LShel (RC); 19 Apr, Pomona (DK); 19 Apr (2), Heron Pond (KM); 25 Apr, JP (EL). MC: **158**, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS)—**unprecedented high count**—see remarks below; 20, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB); 20, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 21 May, LChau (S&RBj); 15 May, JP (PC); 9 May (20), Clinton Co (KM). The seemingly remarkable high count is instructive: DFS remarks: "...by driving the streets with windows rolled down I could cover much more area (52 linear miles) with habitat, namely old elm trees, than people typically cover. There were a lot of Nashvilles, but coverage played a role. If you convert it to birds per block, it was only one Nashville every 3+ blocks, so not really all that dense."

Northern Parula
EA: **24 Mar** (song heard five times), Bloomington (McLean Co)(MF)—**earliest arrival for IL by four days**; 1 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co)(KM); 12 Apr (2), Babe Woodyard Natural Area (Vermilion Co)(RC, GL); 12 Apr (male), Hunter L (Sangamon Co)(DB); 14 Apr (male), Evanston (JE). MC: 19, Pomona, 4 Apr (KM); 3, Sangamon Co, 18 Apr (DB); 3, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS). LD: 16 May, JP (KC); 12 May (male), Henline Creek (McLean Co)(MR).

Yellow Warbler
EA: 18 Apr, LShel (RC); 18 Apr, OakwdBtm (DK, MD); 2 May (2 males), JP (PC). MC: 47 (breeding population), LCal, 27 May (DFS); 39, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 6, Sangamon Co, 6 May & 24 May (DB). LD: 4 Jun (5 males), JP (PC); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB). Other: 9 May, Redwing Slough, Antioch (Lake Co), male seen singing "a perfect Common Yellowthroat song" (CF).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
EA: 6 May (2), JP (DA et al.); 6 May (2 males), Wash.P (DB); 11 May, Madison Co (FH). MC: 25+, Urbana, 17 May (RC); 10, Palos, 14 May (DFS); 4, Sangamon Co, 15-16 May (DB). LD: 9 Jun, Urbana (RC); 5 Jun, Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS); 23 May, Carl.L (DK).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 6 May, statewide. MC: 12, JP, 13 May (PC); 10, Sangamon Co, 16 May (DB). LD: 8 Jun, Urbana (RC); 8 Jun, MidewinPr (DFS); 23 May, Carl.L (DK); 23 May, Madison Co (FH). Among the most disastrous of warbler migrations this spring.

Cape May Warbler
EA: 6 May, JP (fide KEH); 6 May (male), M.View (MR); 6 May (3), L Spfld (DB). MC: 10, Pilcher Park and MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 7, Sangamon Co, 7 May (DB); 2, Carl.L, 9 May (DK)—the only report from so. IL. LD: 31 May, Linc.P (DW); 24 May (female), Urbana (RC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler
EA: 17 Apr (male), Fort Massac SP (Massac Co)(FB)—the only report from so. IL; 6 May (male), JP (KEH et al.); 7 May (male), Adams Sanctuary, Spfld (DB). LD: 24 May (female), Urbana (RC); 17 May (female), JP (PC). High counts reported did not exceed two birds!

Yellow-rumped Warbler
EA: 28 Feb - 3 Mar, Colfax (MR); 28 Feb (2), Pomona (KM); 22 Mar, MS (KWy). MC: 140, Palos, 9 May (CT); 136, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS); 98, Sangamon Co, 25 Apr (DB); 46, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 25 May (male), nw. of Spfld (DB); 17 May, JP (PC); 9 May (15), Clinton Co (KM).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER
Two records: 4-8 May (imm. male), Harbert Park, Evanston (*JE, m.ob., ph.); 20 May (singing male), La Bagh Woods FP (Cook Co)(*RH). **Sixth and seventh state records**; first since 1984. See seasonal higlights with photo for details.

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 12 Apr, Decatur (Macon Co)(MD); 18 Apr (2), AtwdRdg (KM); 26 Apr (male), JP (WS, SF). MC: 17, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS); 15, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM); 4, Sangamon Co, 10 May & 15 May (DB). LD: 4 Jun, Swallow Cliff FP, Palos (DFS); 24 May, Linc.Gdn (DB); 24 May, Urbana (RC).

Blackburnian Warbler
EA: 2 May, Farmdale Park (Tazewell Co)(SBj); 3 May (male), JP (KC et al.). MC: 4 (males), JP, 29 May (PC); 3, Sangamon Co, 6 May & 17 May (DB); 3, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 16 May (DW). LD: 1 Jun (two females), JP (PC) and (1 male), DeerG (CF); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB). No reports from so. IL.

Yellow-throated Warbler
EA: 29 Mar, Pomona (DK); 8 Apr (male), SLSP (DB); 18 Apr (2), MsPal (EW); 19 Apr, I&M Canal we. of Utica (La Salle Co)(C&JMc); 20 Apr, **JP** (GD). MC: 12, Pomona, 14 Apr (KM); 6, Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co), 7 Jun (DW); 2, Sangamon Co, 23 Apr & 25 Apr (DB). LD: 9 May, Oak Park/River Forest (**Cook Co**)(*DFS); 9 May, **Ogle Co** (*BS); 2 May, **JP** (SC).

Pine Warbler
EA: 28 Feb, Pomona (KM); 27 Mar (male), Wash.P (DB); 13 Apr, Palos (CT). MC: **10**, JP, 26 Apr (PC, m.ob.)—record high count for ne. IL; 4, Pomona, 23 Apr (KM). LD: **1 Jun** (male singing in mature pines), DeerG (CF); 17 May (female), M.View (MR et al.).

Prairie Warbler
EA: 11 Apr (2), Jackson Co (DK); 6 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 10, Heron Pond, 19 Apr (KM). LD: 9 May, MS (*RBe); 9 May, Macoupin Co (*TS). Only three reports outside so. IL (as above).

Palm Warbler
EA: 4 Apr, CONWR (KM); 14 Apr (2), JP (KC); 14 Apr, Urbana (RC). MC: 69, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS); 60, CypCrk, 1 May (KM); 21, Sangamon Co, 6-7 May (DB). LD: 20 May, JP (KC); 14 May, L Spfld (DB); 9 May (5), Clinton Co (KM). Among the few adequate warbler migrations this spring.

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 1 May (3), AtwdRdg (KM); 10 May (male), Linc.Gdn (DB); 13 May (2 males), JP (PC, KC). MC: 25+, Urbana, 17 May (RC); 13, LCal, 15 May (DFS); 3, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM). LD: 31 May, Linc.P (RC); 23 May, Madison Co (FH); 21 May, Sangamon Co (DB).

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 26 Apr, Carl.L (DK); 6 May statewide. MC: 60, Urbana, 13 May (RC, GL); 50, McLean Co, 17 May (MR et al.); 22, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS); 6, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 3 Jun, Crittendon Township (Champaign Co)(RC); 1 Jun (2), JP (PC); 29 May, Holten SP (KM).

Cerulean Warbler
EA: 17 Apr, Pomona (KM); 3 May, Urbana (RC); 13 May (2 females), JP (PC, WS). MC: 8, Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co), 30 May (DW); 4, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM). LD: 27 May (singing male), Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS); 25 May, Middle Fork River FP (Champaign Co)(RC).

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: **29 Mar**, OakwdBtm (DK); 13 Apr (male), Wash.P (DB); 18 Apr, JP (fide PC). MC: 10, JP, 9 May (PC et al.); 3, Sangamon Co, 8 May (DB); 2, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 31 May, Linc.P (DW); 26 May (male), Carp.P (DB); 13 May, HL (FH).

American Redstart
EA: 23 Apr, Pomona (KM); 2 May (female), JP (PC); 5 May (imm. male), M.View (MR). MC: 30, LCal, 22 May (DFS); 23, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 9, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 15 May (DW); 5, Sangamon Co, 7-8 May (DB). LD: 12 Jun (2 males), JP (PC); 8 Jun, Urbana (RC); 27 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM).

Prothonotary Warbler
EA: 7 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 28 Apr (female), Riverside Park no. of Spfld (DB); 6 May, JP (KEH et al.). MC: 26, Union Co, 26 Apr (KM); 6, LChau, 21 May (S&RBj); 4 (on territory), Sav.Depot, 16 May (EW). LD: 23 May (2), Columbia Woods (Cook Co)(WS); 17 May, Urbana (RC, m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warbler
EA: 14 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM); 25 Apr, Carp.P (DB); 10 May, Evanston (RC). MC: 10, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM). LD: 18 May, Swallow Cliff FP, Palos (DFS); 16 May, Lodge Park (Piatt Co)(GL, RC, EC).

Ovenbird
EA: 16 Apr (male), Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB); 30 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co)(KM); 2 May, JP (PC, SC). MC: 13, MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 12, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 10, M.View, 9 May (MR). LD: 4 Jun, JP (KC); 25 May, Linc.Gdn (DB).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: 18 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 20 Apr, Wash.P (DB); 24 Apr, JP (DM). MC: 25, Urbana, 6 May (RC); 20, LCal, 8 May (DFS); 9, Sangamon Co, 28 Apr & 6 May (DB). LD: Into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 30 May, Chi (EW).

Louisiana Waterthrush
EA: 29 Mar (4), Pomona (DK); 27 Mar, Urbana (RC); 1 Apr, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: 7, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 4 (on territory), SRSP, 13 May (C&JMc). LD: Migrants into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 9 May, Fisher (Champaign Co)(RC); 2 May, JP (EL).

Kentucky Warbler
EA: **7 Apr**, Wash.P (DB)—earliest arrival for Sangamon Co; 14 Apr (2), Pomona (KM); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC); 13 May, Palos Park Woods (Cook Co)(CT); 13 May, GrantP (DEW). MC: 14, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 3, Sangamon Co, 21 May (DB); 2, MsPal, 16 May (EW); 2, Winnebago Co, 17 May (EW). LD: 23 May (male), JP (SF); 16-17 May (singing male), L Evergreen (McLean Co)(MR, TD, JE).

Connecticut Warbler
EA: 13 May, Urbana (GL, RC); 16 May (male), JP (PC, SC). MC: 5, Urbana, 20 May (RC); 4, Sangamon Co, 21 May (DB); 2 (males), JP, 29 May (PC). LD: 31 May, Linc.P (RC, DW); 25 May, Middle Fork River FP (Champaign Co)(RC).

Mourning Warbler
EA: 16 May, JP (LK); 17 May (male), Carp.P (DB); 17 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 6, Urbana, 24 May (RC); 4, JP, 29 May (PC); 4, Linc.P, 31 May (RC). LD: 13 Jun, Linc.P (EW, IM); 3 Jun, Crittendon Township (Champaign Co)(RC).

Common Yellowthroat
EA: 13 Apr, Pine Hills (Union Co)(KM); 18 Apr (female), JP (SC et al.); 18 Apr, LShel (RC). MC: 35, GrantP, 13 May (DFS); 31, Union Co, 26 Apr (KM); 28, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB). LD: 13 Jun, Linc.P (EW); 26 May, campus at Urbana (RC).

Hooded Warbler
EA: 18 Apr, AtwdRdg (DK, MD); 2 May (2 males), JP (EL, PC); 2 May, Lodge Park (Piatt Co)(RC et al.). MC: 3, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM). LD: 11 May (male), Carp.P (DB); 9 May, Ogle Co (*AT). Few reports.

Wilson's Warbler
EA: 6 May, Urbana (RC); 9 May, Redwing Slough, Antioch (Lake Co)(CF). MC: 10, Evanston/Wilmette, 19 May (JE); 5, Sangamon Co, 24 May (DB); 4, Carl.L, 23 May (DK). LD: 13 Jun, Linc.P (EW); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 23 May (4), Carl.L (DK); 23 May, Madison Co (FH).

Canada Warbler
EA: 13 May, Urbana (AR); 14 May, JP (KEH et al.). MC: 4, Carl.L, 23 May (DK); 4, JP, 29 May (PC, KC); 3, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB). LD: 12 Jun (3 males), JP (PC); into Jun, Sangamon Co (DB); 7 Jun, Rose Hill (Jasper Co)(RC).

Yellow-breasted Chat
EA: 24 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 7 May (male), SLSP (DB); 13 May, GrantP (DFS). MC: 3, Pomona, 30 Apr (KM); 3, Carl.L, 23 May (DK); 2, Sangamon Co, 11 May (DB); 2, se. Winnebago Co, 24 May (DW). LD: 20 May, GrantP (DFS). Low numbers statewide; absent from breeding grounds in Champaign Co as of 23 May (RC).

Summer Tanager
EA: 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 28 Apr (imm. male), JP (PC, KEH); 6 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 7, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 5, AtwdRdg, 1 May (KM). LD: 18-21 May (imm. male), Linc.Gdn (DB); 20 May (female), GrantP (DFS). Others (no. IL): 9 May+, Swallow Cliff FP, Palos (CT); 10 May (male), Morris (Grundy Co)(DFS).

Scarlet Tanager
EA: 14 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM); 19 Apr, Urbana (RC); 3 May (female), JP (fide SF). MC: 10, Urbana, 13 May (RC); 9, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS); 7, Heron Pond, 24 Apr (KM). LD: 25 May (female), JP (PC, SC).

Spotted Towhee
One report: 4 Mar, Monticello (Piatt Co)(MD).

Eastern Towhee
EA: 19 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 17 Mar (3), OakwdBtm (KM); 26 Mar (male), JP (PC). MC: 41, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 13, Sangamon Co, 25 Apr (DB); 11, JP, 2 May (PC). LD: 13 May (female), JP (SC).

American Tree Sparrow
EA: 26 Feb (6), JP (PC, KC). MC: 225, Heyworth, 15 Mar (MF, TB); 215, MidewinPr, 2 Mar (DFS). LD: **27 Apr**, Lime Kiln Spring Trail (**Pulaski Co**)(FB); 27 Apr, Somme Woods (Cook Co)(JE); 28 Mar (4), Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Mar (3), M.View (MR).

Chipping Sparrow
EA: 25 Feb (wintering?), O?Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM); 26 Mar, Spfld (DB); 29 Mar (4), Rockford (Winnebago Co)(DW). MC: 34, LCal, 8 May (DFS); 28, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 27, Union Co, 13 Apr (KM).

Clay-colored Sparrow
EA: 26 Apr, Urbana (RC); 26 Apr (5), Lime Kiln Spring Trail (Pulaski Co)(LB); 30 Apr, Chi (JL). MC: 5, Lime Kiln Spring Trail (Pulaski Co), 26 Apr (LB). LD: 12 May, JP (PC, SC) and Evanston (EW); 9 May, statewide (Spring Bird Count). Widely reported as singles.

Field Sparrow
EA: 28 Feb, Sangamon Co, but no increases until 26 Mar (DB); 28 Feb (2), Pomona (KM); 26 Mar (2), JP (PC, KC). MC: **152**, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS)—apparently a single-observer high count for IL; 38, Johnson Co, 24 Mar (KM); 18, Sangamon Co, 2 May (DB). LD: 29 May, JP (SC).

Vesper Sparrow
EA: 21 Mar (2), Chi (JL); 25 Mar (2), Union Co (KM); 26 Mar, Buckhart (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: 9, Sangamon Co, 11 Apr (DB); 6, M.View, 28 Mar (MR); 3, Kidd L, 29 Mar (DK). LD: 11 May, ea. Kane Co (DFS); 9 May (2), Clinton Co (KM).

Lark Sparrow
EA: **30 Mar**, New Columbia (Massac Co)(FB); 23 Apr, Carbondale (Jackson Co)(KM); 3 May (4), Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co)(DW); 4 May (2), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 12 (10 males), Sav.Depot, 16 May (EW); 2, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM).

Savannah Sparrow
EA: 28 Feb, CONWR (KM); 1 Mar (2), near L Spfld (DB); 26 Mar (2), JP (PC) and (1) Evanston (EW). MC: 20, Henline Pit (McLean Co), 23 Apr (MR); 13, JP, 2 May (PC); 12, CypCrk, 1 May (KM). LD: 25 May, JP (PC, SC); 14 May, ea. of Spfld (DB); 13 May (11), HL (KM).

Grasshopper Sparrow
EA: 17 Apr (4), Pr.Rdg (JW, EK); 25 Apr, Chi (JL); 2 May (male), New City (Sangamon Co)(DB). MC: 29, Sav.Depot, 16 May (EW); 19, nw. Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW); 10, Savoy (Champaign Co), 25 May (RC); 4, 17 Apr, Pr.Rdg (JW, EK). LD: 10 May, JP (WS, SF).

Henslow's Sparrow
EA: 14 Apr (6), Pr.Rdg (JW, EK). MC: 7 (breeding population), GLPSP, 23 May (DFS); 6, Pr.Rdg, 14 Apr (JW, EK); 6, Lime Kiln Spring Trail (Pulaski Co), 3 May (FB). LD: 25 May, Savoy (Champaign Co) and Paxton (Ford Co)(RC); 24 May (breeding?), Lime Kiln Spring Trail (Pulaski Co)(DK). Almost no reports away from nesting areas.

Le Conte's Sparrow
EA: 21 Mar (2), Carl.L (Fayette Co)(DK, ASe, ph.); 27 Mar, SLSP (DB); 25 Apr, Linc.P (JL, m.ob.). MC: 3, Sangamon Co, 3 Apr & 14 Apr (DB). LD: 13 May, Chi (JL); 9 May, L Kakusha, Mendota, La Salle Co (*JH); 24 Apr (2), SLSP (DB).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
EA: 16 May, SLSP (DB); 22 May, JP (KC). LD: 31 May, Linc.P (RC); 29 May, JP (PC, KC). Only four reports of singles.

Fox Sparrow
EA: 21 Feb, Urbana (RC); 27 Feb, Eggers Woods, LCal (DFS); 6 Mar, Carl.L (county?)(KM). MC: 103, Chi, 26 Mar—60 at GrantP (DFS, KWy) and 43 at JP (PC); 90, Urbana, 27 Mar (RC); 3, Carl.L (county?), 7 Mar (KM). LD: 9 May, Cook Co (*MH); 11 Apr, SLSP (DB); 10 Apr, Carl.L (DK).

Song Sparrow
EA: 15 Feb, Chi (EW); 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB). MC: **881**, Chi, 26 Mar—**445** at GrantP (DFS, KWy), **336** at JP (PC), 100 at LCal (DFS); **679**, Chi, 27 Mar—**510** at GrantP (DFS), **169** at JP (PC); **250**, Urbana, 27 Mar (RC); 76, JP, **26 Feb** (PC)—an early high count for ne. IL; 66, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). The previous spring high count for the state is 200 at Chi, 4 Apr 1981. LD: 19 May, JP (KC); 12 Apr (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB). Other: 2 May, one being eaten alive by a bullfrog, JP (PC).

Lincoln's Sparrow
EA: **29 Mar** (2), GrantP (DFS); 21 Apr (2), Chi (JL); 24 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 11 May, Madison Co (FH). MC: 33,GrantP, 13 May (DFS); 20, JP, 6 May (PC); 4, Sangamon Co, 30 Apr (DB); 4, Urbana, 26 Apr (RC). LD: 2 Jun, GrantP (DFS); 24 May, SLSP (DB); 13 May, HL (KM). Only two singles reported from so. IL.

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 26 Feb, JP (PC); 1 Mar (4), SLSP (DB). MC: 150, Clin.L, 19 Apr (RC); 95, GrantP, 7 May (DFS); 25, OakwdBtm, 18 Apr (KM). LD: 24 May, JP (SC); 11 May, SLSP (DB); 9 May, Carl.L (DK).

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 8 Apr, JP (KC); 25 Apr (4), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 443, JP, 6 May (PC); 400, Urbana, 26 Apr (RC); 60, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 60, so. Clinton Co, 2 May (KM). LD: 1 Jun, Evanston (JE); 20 May, Urbana (RC); 9 May (36), Carl.L (DK).

White-crowned Sparrow
EA: 28 Mar (imm.)(locally wintering?), JP (PC, SC); 18 Apr (40), LShel (RC); 26 Apr (2), JP (PC, KC). MC: **710**, Grant.P, 9 May (DEW et al.); **587**, JP, 6 May (PC)—**record IL high counts**; not included here are second-hand reports on 6 May of 700 at Linc.P and "many hundreds" at GrantP, suggesting **1600+** at Chi on 6 May, and hundreds remaining through 13 May; 53, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 28, Sangamon Co, 5 May (DB). LD: 27 May, Vermilion Co (JOS); 25 May (3), JP (PC, KC); 13 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM).

Dark-eyed Junco
EA: 26 Feb (13), JP (PC, KC). MC: 220, GrantP and LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 67, Sangamon Co, 26 Mar (DB); 10, Jackson Co, 4 Apr (KM). LD: **21 May**, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe (Cook Co)(*DJ); 9 May (7), GrantP (DEW et al.); 20 Apr, Lick Creek (Sangamon Co)(DB); 20 Apr (2), Colfax (MR); 18 Apr, AtwdRdg (KM). Others: "Oregon Junco": wintering male through 25 Mar, Colfax (MR); 4 Mar (male), Monticello (Piatt Co)(MD).

Lapland Longspur
MC: 350, DeWitt Co, 5 Mar (DFS); 150, Sangamon Co, 17 Mar (DB); 80+, McHenry Co, 24 Mar (RBa); 50, Henline Pit (McLean Co), 23 Mar (MR). LD: 2 May (2), Chi (JL); 23 Apr, Henline Pit (McLean Co)(MR); 22 Mar (2), Sangamon Co (DB). Poor numbers and early departure at Sangamon Co (DB).

Smith's Longspur
EA: 17 Mar, Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 21 Mar, Sta Fe Btm (DK). MC: 150, Pr.Rdg, 16 Apr (JW, EK); 100+, Henline Pit (McLean Co), 16-19 Apr (MR); 50, Savoy (Champaign Co), 19 Apr (RC); 30, Sangamon Co, 4 Apr (DB). LD: 3 May (12), near L Spfld (DB); 3 May, Savoy (Champaign Co)(RC). Poor numbers at Sangamon Co (DB).

Snow Bunting
MC: 121, La Salle L, 8 Mar (C&JMc). LD: 4 Apr (16), La Salle L (C&JMc). No reports away from La Salle L.

Northern Cardinal
MC: 125, SLSP and vicinity, 6 Mar (DFS); 89, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 78, Oak Park/River Forest (Cook Co), 9 May (DFS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: 18 Apr, AtwdRdg (DK, MD); 25 Apr, Urbana (RC); 25 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 3 May (3), Boone Co (AB). MC: **150+**, Urbana, 13 May (AR)—**record high count for IL**; 18, Palos, 9 May (CT); 8, Clinton Co, 9 May (KM). LD: 29 May, Holten SP (KM); 25 May (2), JP (PC, SC).

Blue Grosbeak
EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (KM); 13 May (female), MidewinPr (DFS); 15 May, Urbana (AR); 16 May (imm. male), Sav.Depot (EW). MC: 5 (males), Union Co, 1 May (C&JMc). LD: 25 May (male), Sangamon Co (DB); 20 May, Urbana (RC).

Indigo Bunting
EA: 13 Apr, Pomona (DK); 13 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 15 Apr, MidewinPr (DFS); 26 Apr (male), SLSP (DB). MC: 56, Union Co, 1 May (KM); 46 (mostly residents), Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB); 35, ThatcherWds, 17 May (DFS). LD: 4 Jun (2), JP (PC).

Dickcissel
EA: 22 Apr (3), Pr.Rdg (JW, EK); 4 May (male), we. of SLSP (DB); 16 May, Sav.Depot (EW). MC: 64, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 53, Sangamon Co, 25 May (DB). Very good numbers in Sangamon Co (DB).

Bobolink
EA: 30 Apr, Carbondale (Jackson Co)(C&JMc); 2 May (2), DeerG (CF) and (2), JP (PC); 3 May (male), Berry (Sangamon Co)(DB); 3 May, Savoy (Champaign Co)(RC). MC: 20, Saybrook (McLean Co), 14 May (MR); 16, Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co), 19 May (EW); 8, St. Clair Co, 4 May (TUM). LD: 13 Jun (2), Linc.P (EW); 25 May (5), Pleasant Plains (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Red-winged Blackbird
EA: 30 Jan, Sangamon Co (DB); 14 Feb (2 males), JP (PC). MC: **50,000** at roost, Sangamon Co, 19 Mar (DB)—apparently a spring high count; 900, MidewinPr, 2 Mar (DFS); 765, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW); 490, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 30 Apr (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

Eastern Meadowlark
EA: 7 Feb, Colfax (MR); 7 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 16 Feb (3), MidewinPr (DFS). MC: 108, MidewinPr, 15 Apr (DFS); 58, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 44, Union Co, 1 May (KM); 40, Sangamon Co, 17 May (DB). LD: 3 May, JP (PC).

Western Meadowlark
EA: 21 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 1 Mar (2), La Salle Co (C&JMc). MC: 26, Sav.Depot, 16 May (EW); 9, nw. Winnebago Co, 9 May (DW); 4, Colfax, 10 Mar (MR). LD: 1 Mar (male), Pleasant Plains (Sangamon Co)(DB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
EA: **1 Mar** (male), La Salle Co (*C&JMc)—**record early arrival date for IL**; 12 Apr (male), LCal (WM). MC: 8 (5 males, 3 females), LCal, 26 Apr (WM). The extraordinarily early arrival date suggests a bird wintering out of its expected range, perhaps within IL. The previous earliest arrival was documented at DeWitt Co, 17 Mar 1995.

Rusty Blackbird
EA: 15 Feb, Urbana (RC); 27 Feb (4), LCal (DFS); 14 Mar (5), Hazlet SP (Clinton Co)(DK). MC: 175, Illinois R bottoms so. of Peru (La Salle Co), 5 Apr (C&JMc); 50, Sangamon Co, 1 Mar (DB); 8, Chain-of-Rocks Canal, L&D #27 (Madison Co), 6 Apr (KM). LD: 9 May, McHenry Co (*D&SBe); 9 May, Champaign Co (*RC); 11 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co)(KM).

Brewer's Blackbird
EA: 28 Feb (11), Pulaski Co (KM); 7 Mar, Urbana (RC); 26 Mar, Wolf L, LCal (DFS). MC: **300**, Sta Fe Btm, 4 Apr (DK)—**unprecedented high count for IL**; other totals from same site include 200, 15 Mar (MD), and 90, 10 Apr (DFS); 11, Pulaski Co, 28 Feb (KM). LD: 9 May, De Kalb Co (*JWm). **Corrigendum**: The previous high count of 100-150, 16 Mar 1996, was from Marion Co (not Jackson Co as published in *Meadowlark* 5.4) (DK, in litt.).

Common Grackle
EA: 9 Feb, Sangamon Co (DB); 20 Feb, JP (PC). MC: **50,000** at roost, Sangamon Co, 19 Mar (DB)—apparently a record spring high count for IL; 5000, Urbana, 22 Feb (RC); 665, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW); 226, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 7 May (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB); 6 May (11 migrants), JP (PC).

Brown-headed Cowbird
EA: 23 Feb (17), JP (PC). MC: **20,000** at roost, Sangamon Co, 19 Mar (DB)—apparently a record spring high count for IL; 115, Evanston, 26 Mar (EW); 61, Carl.L, 9 May (DK). LD: 11 May, JP (PC); 11 Apr (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

Orchard Oriole
EA: 18 Apr, Union Co (KM); 25 Apr, Adams Co (KV); 3 May, JP (fide PC). MC: 19, MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 10, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB); 6, Union Co, 1 May (KM). LD: 15 May (imm. male), JP (PC).

Baltimore Oriole
EA: 23 Apr, Union Co (KM); 26 Apr (male), L Spfld (DB); 26 Apr, Urbana (RC, GL); 4 May (male), Evanston (fide JE). MC: 39, MidewinPr, 13 May (DFS); 37, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 25, Urbana, 6 May (RC). LD: 29 May, JP (PC).

Purple Finch
EA: 26 Mar, Van Vlissengen Prairie, LCal (DFS); 28 Mar, Clin.L (RC); 4 Apr (2), Pomona (KM). MC: 6, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 7 May (DW); 6, JP, 8 May (KC, PC). LD: 11 May, JP (PC); 9 May, Knox Co (*JSc); 21 Apr, O?Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM).

House Finch
MC: 27, Carl.L, 9 May (DK); 14, LCal, 19 Mar (DFS); 12, Sangamon Co, 20 Mar (DB).

Red Crossbill
LD: 20 May (female), Sidney (Champaign Co)(RC); 6 May (3), Urbana (AR). No other reports.

White-winged Crossbill
One record: 1 Mar (4), so. of Wash.P (DB).

Pine Siskin
EA: 22 Mar, Carl.L (DK). MC: 31, SRSP, 7 Mar (C&JMc); 30, Zander Woods FP (Cook Co), 15 Mar (WM); 15, Sangamon Co, 22 Mar (DB). LD: 6 Jun, Palatine (Cook Co)(CF); 3 Jun, Urbana (GL); 11 May (6), O'Fallon (St. Clair Co)(KM); 2 May (3—failed breeders), Spfld (DB). Few reports.

American Goldfinch
EA: 11 Apr (increased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB). MC: 150, Pomona, 18 Apr (KM); 75, Evanston, 9 May (JE, IM, EW); 60, Sangamon Co, 2 May (DB). LD: 11 May (decreased numbers), Sangamon Co (DB).

Evening Grosbeak
Only one report: 18 Apr (female), Blanding?s Landing (Jo Daviess Co)(EW).

House Sparrow
MC: 249, Evanston, 9 May (EW, JE, IM); 219, Carl.L, 9 May (DK).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 7, Sangamon Co, 4 Apr (DB); 4, HL, 6 May (KM). Others: 21 Apr, **O'Fallon** (St. Clair Co)(KM)—easternmost record for county; 25 Apr, Sauget (St. Clair Co)(DK); 8 May, Adams Co (KV).

EXOTICS:

Muscovy Duck
15 May (white variant), Chi (JL).

Cockatiel
23 Apr, Chi (JL).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 26, JP, 9 May (FKB, PC)—count excludes substantial population in adjacent residential areas; 12 (two active nests), LCal, 26 Mar (DFS).

ADDENDA:

The following records were inadvertently omitted from the spring 1997 report. The observer in each case is Carolyn Fields (CF): "**Brewster's Warbler**", 8 May, Palatine (Cook Co). **Prairie Warbler**, 19 May, Palatine (Cook Co). **Prothonotary Warbler**, 30 Apr, DeerG. **Worm-eating Warbler**, 8 May, Palatine (Cook Co). **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 18 & 23 May (singing), Deer Grove West FP (Cook Co). **Summer Tanager**, 24 May (male), Wauk.

— Paul R. Clyne
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